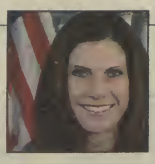
Remembering those lost to AIDS
Activities planned to mark World AIDS Day; Project Inform begins 20th year.
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What's the rush?
Rep. Bono says state is not ready for gay marriage.
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Nutcracker with a "!"
Choreographer Matthew Bourne on his new dance.
see Arts section



BAY AREA REPORTER

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Serving the gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender communities since 1971

Gays assail ABC Shepard show

by Zak Szymanski

Was the murder of Matthew Shepard really an antigay hate crime? ABC's *20/20* doesn't think so, and to prove it, the show will attempt to present evidence this Friday, November 26, that one of Shepard's killers was a methamphetamine-addicted closeted bisexual who, while triggered into violence by a sexual advance from Shepard, was not a homophobic person in everyday life.



Matthew Shepard

Shepard, 21, was beaten by Aaron McKinney and Russell Henderson in October 1998 and left tied to a fence outside of Laramie, Wyoming. He died in a hospital a few days after the attack and almost instantly became the LGBT community's martyr, a poster child for gay rights everywhere.

The often told story has it that Shepard was singled out for being gay by a pair of homophobic rednecks. McKinney's girlfriend at the time, Kristen Price, helped to support that theory with her public statements that McKinney was trying to teach Shepard a lesson, "not to come on to straight people." That oversimplified story, according to ABC, is exactly what the show is trying to debunk.

"The vast majority of reporting that's been done has talked about it only as a hate crime and frankly, ignored other possible motives. ABC News did a number of reports in the days, months, and years after the vicious crime, and we are simply following up our own reporting," Jeffrey Schneider, vice president of ABC News, told the *Bay Area Reporter*. "I think the report goes to the fact that there appears to be much more to the story than has been previously reported. We're examining the possibility that robbery was the motive and that crystal meth played a key role in this violent murder."

Yet, according to a preview copy of the episode obtained by the *B.A.R.* through ABC, it was indeed Shepard's reported sexual advance that allegedly set off a strung-out McKinney into a pistol-whipping rage during an at-

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Rick Gerharter

A somber tradition

Longtime activist Tommi Avicolli Mecca, left, walks up Castro Street with others during the 26th annual march commemorating the November 27, 1978 assassinations of Supervisor Harvey Milk and Mayor George Moscone. This year's commemoration began at Castro and Market streets, where Milk's former camera shop is located, before walking to Harvey Milk Plaza at Castro and Market streets. Members of the Harvey Milk LGBT Democratic Club and other speakers offered remembrances of Milk, and urged the community to keep fighting for equal rights.

TG activism targets schools

by Zak Szymanski



Rick Gerharter

People attending the Transgender Day of Remembrance ceremony at the LGBT Community Center Saturday, November 20 read names of those murdered.

Students, teachers, and administrators of San Francisco's Washington High School observed the annual Transgender Day of Remembrance on Thursday, November 18 with a variety of activities, including tours of a mock grave site honoring victims of anti-transgender violence, a display of a quilt made for LGBT equality, and guest speakers who addressed transgender issues. The event was sponsored by the Richmond Village Beacon Center, a community center on campus that includes the high school's gay-straight alliance.

The event also served as a platform for city community groups to announce the release of *Beyond the Binary: a Tool Kit for Gender Identity Activism in Schools*, a publication of the Gay-Straight Alliance Network, the National Center for Lesbian Rights, and the Transgender Law Center.

The Day of Remembrance is a worldwide event meant to draw attention to the violence faced by transgenders and others who do not conform to gender expectations. Over the past year, at least 21 transgender people have been killed, a rate of more than one murder per month.

Citywide, the Transgender Day of Remembrance took place on Saturday, November 20, with a vigil and march from the Castro to the LGBT Community Center. Organizer Gwen Smith estimated that 600 people attended the march, and 300 went to the event afterwards. Attendance was "a bit down this year," said Smith, who also writes a column for the *Bay Area Reporter*.

At Washington High last week, transgenders, allies, and advocates spoke about the problems faced by people who do not conform to the binary gender system's definition of "male" and "female." On a day dedicated to raising awareness about anti-transgender violence, speakers such as Sylvia Guerrero, mother of slain East Bay transgender teenager Gwen Araujo, addressed the broader problems that contribute to and encourage such violence, such as school harassment and discrimination. It was Guerrero's first high school appearance in her career as a transgender rights activist.

"If you are transgender, gay, bisexual or different in any way, I don't want you to be treated as less than the student sitting next to

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Can a pill keep you negative?

New study sparks concern

by Matthew S. Bajko

It's name sounds benign enough, Project T. But the study to see how tenofovir, a once-a-day pill that may prevent HIV, will affect negative gay men's sexual behaviors is seen as controversial by some health officials.

Fearful of what consequences a "pop a pill and stay safe" message may hold, alarmed health professionals worry the study may prove dangerous to the well-being of gay men. Some are even reluctant to recommend men sign on for the study, since there is no evidence yet that tenofovir can prevent humans from becoming HIV-positive.



Rick Gerharter

Dr. Susan Buchbinder

"The study is flawed and shouldn't happen," Steven Gibson, director of Magnet, the gay men's health center, told San Francisco researchers last week during a meeting about the study.

"I am terrified about what will happen with this study and what behavioral changes will be seen in gay men," added Gibson, a former program director at the Stop AIDS Project.

Bartholomew Casimir, with the Black Coalition on AIDS, responded with concern to the researchers' request for help recruiting men of color for the study.

"There is a lot of concern I have with this study, especially recruiting the black men I know who are negative. It would be hard for me to convince them to take part in this study when there is a possibility you expect them to become positive," Casimir told the researchers. "What are you doing to prevent that? I find it very questionable."

Arguing that new HIV prevention methods are "urgently needed" across the globe, the health investigators defended taking part in the study and assured those opposed to Project T that safety precautions have been built into the study.

"It's a very valid concern you are raising," responded Dr. Susan Buchbinder, director of the HIV Research Section at the city's Department of Public Health. "We are in desperate times. We have 10 new infections each week in San Francisco. We absolutely need new behavioral interventions."

Buchbinder pointed out that partici-

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A 'Real Bad' success



Jane Philomen Cleland

Representatives from Marriage Equality California and the AIDS Emergency Fund are all smiles Thursday, November 18 as volunteers from Grass Roots Gay Rights West present them with $80,000 (divided equally between the two groups) from the Real Bad party held following the Folsom Street Fair. Each year GRGR West, which produces Real Bad, chooses one socially progressive organization and one HIV/health-related group as beneficiaries from the party. Over its 16-year history, GRGR West has donated nearly $400,000 to various organizations.

Poster contest winners to be announced

by Tyson Gillfillan

Alarmed over HIV infection rates despite decades of community activism, a coalition of San Francisco organizations have sought a return to earlier days of straightforward and provocative safe-sex messages. The result will be unveiled at Magnet, the gay men's health center, on the eve of World AIDS Day, as entries are displayed and winners announced for "Open Up," a poster contest designed to gather community input for effective safe-sex campaigns.

The contest was organized by Buzz Bense, owner of the Castro sex club Eros, and sponsored by Magnet, the *Bay Area Reporter*, and social marketing firm Better World Advertising, creator of the Healthy Penis campaign. The idea grew out of frustration at government restrictions watering down HIV prevention campaigns into messages that many in the community consider preachy and ineffective.

"[The contest] is about tapping into the energy and creativity of the community," said Bense.

Over two dozen posters were received following a call for entries earlier this fall. A panel of judges from the sponsoring organizations, as well as two community members at large, Greg Fry, spokesman from the HIV Stops With Me campaign, and Marcial Ornelaz, a health education student at San Francisco State University, have evaluated the entries and will announce the top five finalists at the November 30 unveiling.

Entries were judged on a variety of criteria, including creativity, applicability to gay men in San Francisco, clarity, relevance, and accuracy, as well as each poster's "call to action." According to organizers the posters reflect a wide variety of technical approaches, from computer generated productions to hand-made collages, and incorporate a variety messages such as condom use, disclosing HIV status to partners, and self-esteem dynamics.

"A number of entries were very sex-positive," said Bense. "They encourage people to be open ... not to stop having sex, but to be safe." Which is precisely what the organizers hoped to achieve – a return to frank, honest discussions about sex and sexuality that help prevent HIV infection.

According to Bense, the winning artist will receive $500, and featured works will be presented to the San Francisco HIV Prevention Planning Council. All entries will be displayed temporarily at Magnet's gallery wall before moving to Eros. The top three will be published in next week's *B.A.R.*

Critics of provocative safe-sex campaigns say that no methodology exists to scientifically measure their effectiveness, and conservative politicians claim that they actually encourage unsafe sexual activity. In recent years, Republican congressmen have repeatedly called upon the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to investigate federally funded HIV prevention campaigns, most notably at San Francisco's Stop AIDS Project.

Stop AIDS insists that progressive, provocative campaigns do work for the gay community, and point to numerous surveys and CDC studies to prove the effectiveness of their material.

Community leaders like the Open Up organizers worry that Stop AIDS and related groups have become overwhelmed by the constant need to defend themselves against politically motivated attacks, and hope efforts like the poster contest will return the dialogue to the community.

As Bense said, "This is everyone's responsibility, and this is an opportunity for the community to creatively voice messages about prevention and sexual health that really resonate with them."

Tuesday's reception takes place from 7 to 9 p.m. at Magnet, 4122 18th Street in San Francisco. Judges and artists will be on hand to discuss the works during an informal forum. ▼

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Drag queen's role on jury questioned

By Ed Walsh

Legendary drag performer and community activist Jose Sarria, a.k.a. Empress Jose I, The Widow Norton, is taking center stage in a controversy over whether the death sentence of the only San Franciscan on San Quentin's death row should be overturned.

Sarria was part of a jury that convicted Clifford Bolden of first-degree murder in 1991 for the 1986 stabbing death of Michael Pedersen. Last week, the California Supreme Court ordered the state to explain why Bolden's conviction shouldn't be overturned because of Sarria's alleged personal connections with the case.

Bolden's attorney, Jeanne Keevan-Lynch, argued that Sarria had heard that Bolden was the "romantic interest" of Andre Montgomery, with whom he had performed at the now-defunct Finnochio's night club, according to *The Recorder*, a San Francisco-based legal newspaper that first reported the story November 18. Keevan-Lynch also argued that Sarria knew *Bay Area Reporter* political editor Wayne Friday, who had worked on the case in his capacity as an investigator for the San Francisco District Attorney's office. Coincidentally, Friday was also called as a juror in the Bolden case but was promptly excused, "albeit after exchanging greetings with Mr. Sarria," Keevan-Lynch alleged.

Friday told the *B.A.R.* this week that he's worked on hundreds of cases for the district attorney's office and that if he worked on the Bolden case at all, it was very little. Friday added he didn't recall being called for the same jury panel as Sarria or exchanging greetings with him but he said it's possible it could have happened.

"If they're using that to overturn the case, that's a pretty lame reason," Friday said.

According to *The Recorder*, Sarria is also accused of "undisclosed relationships" with the San Francisco Sheriff's Department. Keevan-Lynch said the sheriff's office investigated claims that Bolden was involved in "a prisoner cabal planning to attempt to escape from the jail by shinnying down a braid of bedsheets."

A spokeswoman for the San Francisco sheriff's office, Susan Fahey, said that Sheriff Mike Hennessey was not aware of the case until the *B.A.R.* asked about it. Fahey added that because the alleged connection with the sheriff's office was not specified, it would be impossible to give any comment about it.



Rick Gerharter

Jose Sarria, a.k.a. Empress I



Convicted murderer Clifford Bolden

Neither Sarria nor Keevan-Lynch returned the *B.A.R.*'s calls by press time.

Keevan-Lynch alleged that Bolden's former attorneys did not adequately conduct the jury selection process, and if they had, she argued, Sarria would have been excused from the panel because of his personal connections with the case. Keevan-Lynch also argued that Bolden's former attorneys made little or no effort to develop evidence during the penalty phase of Bolden's trial that Bolden was a schizophrenic.

The state has until December 17 to respond to the Supreme Court order.

Bolden and Pedersen met at the Pendulum bar on September 9, 1986. After a night of drinking, Bolden stabbed Pedersen to death and left his body in the bathtub of Pedersen's Corbett Avenue home. Bolden carved an L shape into Pedersen's chest. Bolden was arrested two days later. Physical evidence connected him to the crime. Police found jewelry and other valuables belonging to Pedersen in Bolden's apartment. According to published reports, Bolden was released from prison earlier that year after serving about seven years on two separate manslaughter convictions. At the time of the killing, Bolden was 38 and Pedersen was 48.

The case bears chilling similarities to another murder case that is currently winding its way through the courts. James McKinnon is accused of killing and robbing Gary Lee Ober in August 2002. Like the Bolden case, the defendant and victim met in the Pendulum bar, and in each case the victim's body was left in a bathtub in the victim's home. McKinnon is in San Francisco County jail awaiting trial. In an exclusive interview with the *B.A.R.* shortly after his arrest, McKinnon said he killed Ober in self-defense after Ober tried to sexually assault him, a claim that McKinnon's friends strongly dispute. His trial is scheduled to start January 7, 2005.

Bolden is the only San Franciscan among more than 600 men on San Quentin's death row. He was convicted four years before Terence Hallinan was elected as San Francisco's district attorney. Like the current district attorney, Kamala Harris, Hallinan was opposed to the death penalty. ▼

Gay GOPers to get lobbyist

by Matthew S. Bajko

In January, a new Republican LGBT voice will be heard in the halls of the Statehouse and the governor's office. Log Cabin California expects to have hired an executive director to act as its lobbyist in Sacramento by early 2005.

The political group is near meeting a $200,000 fundraising goal to pay for the new position and is interviewing candidates for the job. It would mark the first time that the gay GOPers exerted such political muscle on state issues and had a permanent presence in the capital.

"We want a lobbying presence here in California," said Paul Lynd, president of the San Francisco Log Cabin chapter, whose group is hosting a special $250 cocktail reception prior to its annual dinner next month to help raise money for the position.

"The executive director would coordinate the state Log Cabin organization, but also, it is important to have someone there to lobby the administration and our legislative Republicans to get more of them

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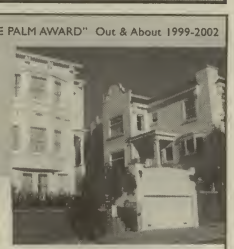
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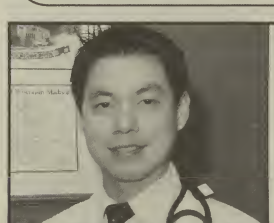
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News in brief

compiled by Cynthia Laird

Hepatitis C workshop

The Quan Yin Healing Center will present a free workshop on hepatitis C care Saturday, November 27. The focus of the morning event is support protocol for interferon treatment, which will be presented by Misha Cohen, OMD, L.Ac. The center is located at 455 Valencia Street in San Francisco. As with previous workshops, Saturday's session begins with a light breakfast at 9:30 a.m. and ends with a mini-Qigong class at noon, led by Laura Bresler.

Organizers said the class is not only for people living with HCV but also their partners, family members, and service providers.

For more information, call or e-mail Yukihiro Ippei Yasuda at (415) 861-4964 or qyhac@aol.com.

Seminar on immigrating to Canada

Canadian immigration attorney Nora Ng will be in San Francisco next week to host a free seminar on working in or immigrating to Canada with a focus on LGBT issues. Ng, an attorney with Elgin, Cannon & Associates in Vancouver, British Columbia (www.elgincannon.com), will be in town Thursday, December 2. The seminar takes place from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the LGBT Community Center, 1800 Market Street, in San Francisco and is free.

For more information, e-mail Ng at norang@telus.net or call (604) 683-5954 or (604) 683-5959.

Commonwealth Club forum

The Commonwealth Club is holding a LGBT member-led forum and organizing meeting Wednesday, December 1 from 5 to 6:30 p.m. at its office at 595 Market Street in downtown San Francisco. The meeting is free and open to Commonwealth Club members and the LGBT community at large.

John Lazar, who will co-chair the meeting, said the purpose of the session is to identify topics and speakers relating to the LGBT community that will be of interest to the club's membership; participants will be invited to produce quarterly events at the club throughout the year.

Lazar and his co-facilitator, John Lewis, held the May forum on spirituality at the club that included several religious leaders, including the Reverend Troy Perry of Metropolitan Community Church

"The member-led forum will be a portal for the community into the Commonwealth Club as well as a wonderful welcoming gesture on the part of the club to embrace the LGBT community more strongly," Lazar noted.

The 101-year-old Commonwealth Club is recognized as a leading promoter of public affairs on relevant topics and attracts speakers who are leaders around the country and throughout the world.

For more information, visit www.commonwealthclub.org or call Lazar at (415) 394-7100, ext. 322.

Holiday art sale benefit

"Art for the House," a special holiday art sale, will take place Friday, December 3 at 6 p.m. at the Shooting Gallery, 839 Larkin Street in San Francisco. The event, which is free, will feature reasonably priced, quality art for sale to benefit the community arts program of Central City Hospitality House, a Tenderloin community center for homeless adults, Tenderloin artists, and community residents.

The arts program is San Francisco's only free-of-charge fine arts studio providing instruction and materials to homeless and poor artists in the Tenderloin. The program provides the tools to help artists create, exhibit, and sell their work.

The Shooting Gallery was founded in February 2003 by Justin Giarla and provides a comfortable gallery space where everyone feels welcome. It has hosted numerous benefits for Tenderloin organizations in the last several months.

For more information on next week's event, call (415) 749-2184 or visit www.hospitalityhouse.org/events.htm. For more information on the Shooting Gallery, call (415) 931-8035 or visit www.shootinggallerysf.com.

Parker House raises funds for AEF

After seven years of hosting their fall luncheon benefit, Bill Boeddiker and Bob O'Halloran, owners of the Parker Guest House bed and breakfast in San Francisco, decided they needed a break this year. But they didn't want to leave the beneficiaries, the AIDS Emergency Fund and Breast Cancer Emergency Fund, stuck with a shortage in much-needed funding, so they launched a direct mail campaign instead and have announced the event was a success.

The men announced last week that around $6,500 was received through the campaign, and with their contribution of $5,000, a total of $11,500 was given to AEF and BCEF. Boeddiker said that checks are still coming in, however, and put the total closer to $12,000.

Boeddiker said that the amount was less than the $18,000 the luncheon usually brought in, and added that he and O'Halloran hope to hold the event next year. Since the first event in 1997, the Parker Guest House has raised over $80,000 for AEF and BCEF.

Correction

Last week's news brief item about the Comcast Cable-backed *Out Spoken* television show reported an inaccurate airtime for this week's show. The premier of *OutSpoken* took place Tuesday, November 23 at 8:30 p.m. The show, hosted by Tim Gaskin, will repeat three times this week: Wednesday, November 24 at 8:30 p.m.; Saturday, November 27 at 7 p.m.; and Sunday, November 28 at 8 p.m. on Comcast cable's digital channel 11. ▼

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Christmas spirit descends on Castro

by Matthew S. Bajko

Expanding on their successful snowflake-themed holiday marketing program last year, Castro merchants are getting even groovier this season, with specially designed holiday decorations and a monthlong calendar of events in the gay business district.

Organized by the Merchants of Upper Market and Castro, the Groovy Holiday 2004 program kicks off this Friday, November 26 with the annual lighting of the evergreen tree in front of the Bank of America building at Castro and 18th Streets. The festivities begin at 6 p.m., and with the state's energy crisis a thing of the past, this year's tree will be decked with extra lights created specifically for the event.

New treats

New this year will be holiday performances each weekend leading up to Christmas, which falls on a Saturday. Beginning the weekend of Friday, December 3 and Saturday, December 4 a traditional Santa, with a robust belly and snow-white beard, will arrive at the corner of Church and Market streets and greet shoppers from 6 to 10 p.m. Santa will be joined by carolers and other performers.

The following weekend, on Friday, December 10 and Saturday, December 11, a jazz quartet will perform at Noe and Market streets in front of Cafe Flore. The final weekend, on Friday, December 17 and Saturday, December 18 a slimmer and younger Santa, along with several sexy helpers, a DJ, and a fire juggler will take up residence in front of Diesel at Castro and Market streets. Performers will be out from 6 to 10 p.m. each night on both weekends.

The entire business district will also be spruced up with custom vinyl graphics to be applied to the Muni F Line shelters on Market Street from Guerrero to Castro, as well as on bus shelters along Church and Castro streets. The same decals of "groovy" ornaments will be used to design the tree's ornaments and be given out to merchants to decorate their store windows.

Lighting, in the program's theme colors of magenta and tangerine, will be installed during the weekend events. Merchants are being encouraged to use the same colored lights in their store displays and on trees fronting their businesses. The merchant group is also encouraging businesses to offer special deals during each weekend.

"The concept behind the promotion is to create a 'groovy' atmosphere for people to shop – an environment where they are greeted on their way home from work with live music on the street and offers for two-for-one drinks or dinners," explained MUMC president Herb Cohn in the group's monthly newsletter. ▼

Hotel lockout ends

by Kevin Davis

Although both sides have not reached agreement on the major issues, the San Francisco Multi-Employer Group has agreed to a 60-day cooling off period and ended its eight-week lockout of 4,300 hotel workers.

The deal was announced by Mayor Gavin Newsom, and representatives of the hotels and UNITE HERE Local 2 Saturday, November 20.

Maids, doormen, cooks and others, most of whom earn between $9 and $20 per hour, returned to their jobs beginning Tuesday at 10 p.m.

The 60-day agreement means members of Local 2 cannot strike and the 14 hotels cannot lock out workers while the contract negotiations continue after Thanksgiving. The SFMEG agrees not to appeal the Employment Development Department's decision that the workers are eligible for unemployment insurance, which played a large part in ending the lockout.

SFMEG Vice President and Hyatt Regency Director Matt Adams said concessions on both sides during early morning to midnight negotiations last Friday at the Bill Graham Civic Auditorium led the employers to believe an agreement could be reached in the next two months.

During that session the union withdrew its desire for increased paid time off and accelerated vacation accrual while the employers removed the threat of random drug testing, increased duties for maids, and limiting paid time off.

Those issues, identified by Local 2 President Mike Casey as peripheral, were actually important, said Barbara French of Reputation, SFMEG's media relations company.

"I don't think the hotels would characterize it that way," said French. "I think the employers feel they both accomplished a little and could work in true negotiations to move issues aside. That's why they felt the atmosphere and dynamic was different and creat-

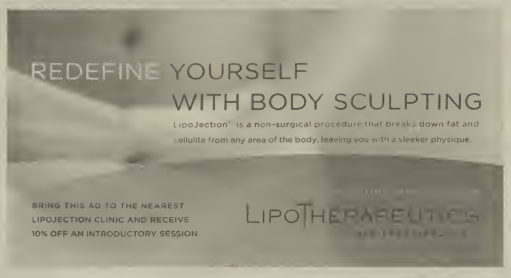
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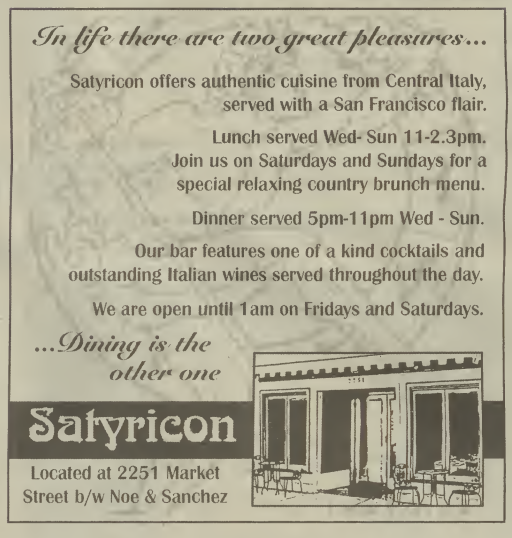


Locked out no more: Hotel workers return to jobs.













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Traditions old and new

Thirty years ago, a drag queen named Tenderloin Tessie started what would become a tradition in the San Francisco gay community – holiday meals for those in need. Perry Spink, who as Tessie opened his heart to those less fortunate in the Tenderloin, died in 1984, but Tessie's indomitable spirit lives on in this annual San Francisco event. This year, Thanksgiving dinner will be served at the First Unitarian Church, 1187 Franklin Street, from 1 to 4 p.m.

The LGBT community has been lending a helping hand to those less fortunate for decades. Gay men helped each other during the early days of AIDS; and when they began dying at an alarming rate, lesbians stepped in to provide much needed support and assistance. Looking beyond our community, we reached out to straights as well. Gays are well represented in the helping professions, perhaps because we know all too well what it's like to face rejection by our families because of who we are.

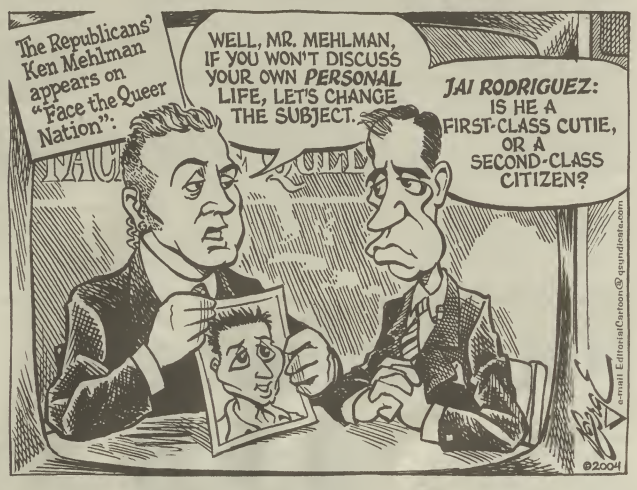
The recent presidential election shows that we need to continue with a new tradition – working with fellow LGBT community members as well as straight allies. Now more than ever it is time that we talk to people, sharing our stories about why it is so important that we achieve full equality. Thanksgiving is an ideal time to start those conversations, because many of us spend the holiday with family and friends. And as we mark the start of the holiday season, it's also important to keep in mind that we are all activists in one way or another.

Given the election outcome, it's also important to resolve to continue coming out. San Francisco activist Tommi Avicolli Mecca spoke with us shortly after the election and pointed out that much needs to be done, especially in Southern states. But that advocacy needs to come from queers with ties to the South and those who live there.

"The attitudes in the South haven't changed since the Civil War," Avicolli Mecca said. "Queers in the South really need to mobilize, get radical. We [San Francisco queers] can't do it here from SF. It's time for massive numbers of queers in the South to do education. Come out and mobilize."

He pointed to large numbers of gays who came out in the 1970s during the Anita Bryant/Florida orange juice boycott. "We need to continue that strategy and come out in droves. Personal interactions can't be underestimated," he added.

Indeed, they can't. So if you're traveling this holiday season, work on those personal relationships that are so important to garnering support from mainstream America. According to recent polls, most people support some sort of legal recognition of same-sex couples. We need to take the next step to continue the march toward equality. ▼



Where's the AIDS czar?

by Patrick Monette-Shaw

Refreshingly, we now learn AIDS czar Jeff Sheehy belatedly questions San Francisco's budgeting process as being "too politicized" *["AIDZ czar questions budgeting process," November 18]*. Given Sheehy was nowhere heard influencing HIV/AIDS budgeting processes as they unfolded, where has he been the past five months since becoming czar June 10? Mr. Sheehy is, rightly, alarmed by the current proposed cuts, but his absence since becoming czar may have set the stage for more cuts that are looming.

While Sheehy claims the HIV/AIDS service cuts Health Director Dr. Mitch Katz recently proposed aren't "focused" or "strategic," and Katz's processes weren't "transparent" and need reform, why didn't Katz consult Sheehy prior to elevating Sheehy's ire? Why wasn't Sheehy present at the November 9 Health Commission meeting, publicly opposing the HIV/AIDS cuts Katz introduced there?

Where was our czar during four separate monthly meetings of the CARE Council held between July and October? During those four meetings, the council developed its CARE-funded budget for healthcare services for the new fiscal year set to begin next March. Sheehy's failure to attend any CARE Council meetings during his five-month tenure shows he neglected to become involved in the very processes he is now criticizing.

Where was Sheehy when the council battled with Katz last May, while Sheehy was being vetted for AIDS czar? Katz unilaterally, and without consulting the council beforehand, pitched a proposal to Supervisor Chris Daly to use general fund backfill money the supervisors had allocated to restore lost CARE funds for methadone maintenance instead. While the council stopped Katz's folly, it did so without Sheehy's involvement. The council, also without Sheehy's help, fended off Health Commissioner Jim Illig's criticism, who sided with Katz. Apparently, neither man understands the council is mandated to direct DPH and the mayor on service priorities, not the other way around.

Where was Sheehy on July 26 when the council voted to restrict eligibility provided at new "Centers for Excellence" facilities – formerly called integrated service model (ISM) programs – to only those having a "severe need," or those who are "special population" members? This eligibility restriction portends that only those with dual or triple diagnoses (HIV/AIDS, plus a substance abuse, or plus a mental health, diagnosis) will be eligible for ISM services. Czar Sheehy missed the council's additional vote to increase ISM funding by $4.2 million to a total of $6.4 million, or 25.4 percent of San Francisco's direct services CARE Act award, whichever amount is higher, potentially cutting services to those having a single diagnosis of HIV/AIDS. Despite council members' concerns they did not have sufficient, empirical data documenting the number of people legitimately diagnosed with severe needs; had no idea about how many clients would be served by ISM providers; and had no idea how many single-diagnosis clients might lose CARE-funded services, the council voted to do so without our czar present advocating against this.

Where was Sheehy August 30 when I noted to the council that single-diagnosis clients might be left in the cold if San Francisco again takes a deep cut next March, having mandated that 25.4 percent of FY 05-06 funds be dedicated to ISMs? During that meeting, the council further set service category priority rankings, over which council members expressed concern that categories were being moved about without substantiation, and ranking support to the council dead last, at rank 30, absent Czar Sheehy's presence.

Where was Sheehy on September 27, when the council increased – during its "allocation" process following its "prioritization" process – the council support budget for FY 04-05 by a staggering $179,734, to a total of $521,334? This represents a whopping 108.5 percent increase over the FY 02-03 $250,000 budgeted amount, and the expenditure likely will further curtail actual HIV/AIDS services.

Where was Sheehy on October 25 when the council considered various "funding scenarios" to employ, should San Francisco receive another major cut to its CARE award next March, which scenario(s) will determine whether entire categories are again defunded, disrupting client services and agencies funded even further than Katz's current budget ax? Knowing San Francisco is set to lose, at minimum, $700,000 next March given pre-existing formulas, how is Sheehy shaping "policy" helping the city find $300,000 the U.S. Office of Inspector General has demanded Katz repay due to improper, illegal billing by CARE-funded Baker Places for detox clients who weren't even served in that CARE program? Between these two problems, at minimum $1 million in additional service cuts loom next year, even while Sheehy remains concerned about the very "processes" he neglected to participate in.

As I advocated this spring, Sheehy is the wrong person for the czar job. He should be replaced, or resign, at once, giving someone who will find the time to attend council meetings a chance to influence budgeting processes.

Last Friday the *San Francisco Examiner* reported the city suddenly found $1.8 million that had reportedly been "lost." Some of that money could avert the mid-year AIDS service cuts drawing Sheehy's frustration. It could also be used to fund a salaried czar position. Perhaps a czar paid a salary might become involved in processes before the fact, rather than complaining about processes after the fact. ▼

Patrick Monette-Shaw is a San Francisco accountability activist who operates two websites: www.thelastwatch.com and www.stopLHHdownsize.com.

LETTERS

Work with Democrats

Geoffrey Kors suggests that LGBT organizations withdraw support from Democrats who do not expressly endorse our bid for equal rights *["Time to ditch anti-equality Democrats, say LGBT leaders," November 11]*. I disagree.

We still have a two-party system in this country. John Kerry lost, but not by much. Republicans' core constituency is now the Christers, who for all their talk of love hate queers. Senator Dianne Feinstein (D-California) was merely stating the obvious when she said the country is not ready for gay marriage. Eleven states voted to ban gay marriage, if we are in any doubt.

We are a small minority; most people don't care that our ox is being gored. If as parents themselves, most people can't be brought to care that other people's children are dying in an unnecessary war, don't expect them to think deeply about the Constitution or about the rights of people who until recently were counted as criminals in some states.

It is not a time to collect our marbles and go off in a huff. The vice president has endorsed the idea of civil unions. Bush himself has mentioned it as a possible compromise. The Christers will oppose civil unions, but it is a battle that can proceed state by state, and one in which we can use all the allies we can get.

One thing we can do in the near term is ask our two Democratic senators to filibuster Bush's far-right appointments to the federal courts. Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist has threatened to change the rules on the filibuster, but the Senate, a highly traditional body, is unlikely to go along with him. If Democrats can't mount a filibuster, they have greater problems than an LGBT defection.

James Queen
San Francisco



Disagrees with Friday

I have been reading Wayne Friday's column faithfully for the last 20 years because he provides good information on what is going on politically across the nation. However, I do not agree with Friday's pessimism on the latest election results *["GOP reigns supreme," Our Man Friday, November 11]*. I believe the election results confirm why gay men and women live in California. We moved here from Idaho, Missouri, and Oklahoma to flee oppression and the current election results confirm why we are not moving back anytime soon.

Democrats did not do so bad considering that early on everyone expected Bush to be re-elected in a landslide and 51 percent of the popular vote is not a landslide. Republicans would not have gained seats in Congress except for their gerrymandering of districts in Texas. In the Senate, Republicans certainly were given a run for their money and had to work for every seat they picked up in conservative Southern states.

In California, Kerry won handily and Senator Barbara Boxer was re-elected. Not one congressional seat, Assembly seat, or state Senate seat was lost to the Republicans. We increased the number of gay legislators in the state Legislature to six – the highest of any state legislature in the country. These gay elected officials are doing an absolutely fabulous job for gay people across the state.

In terms of civil rights, there is no state that exceeds California in enacting gay civil rights legislation and providing real protection as well as opportunity. On January 1, 2005 California's domestic partner law will take effect and will extend nearly all the state rights and benefits to registered couples.

We have much to be thankful for and we shall hang our heads high and continue to press forward for equality knowing that the struggle will never be easy. We should have no regrets or self-loathing wondering what might have been if only we would have shut up or been silenced.

George Collins
Berkeley, California

Please don't leave for Canada

For those of you depressed over the outcome of this past presidential election and considering moving to Canada, please don't. We need you. Please do not allow them to win. This is what they want. The more of us that move, the stronger they become. He did not win by a landslide. It was still a pretty even split. If many of us leave, he just becomes stronger and the margin increases.

We must stay and fight; fight this administration at every turn. Do not run. Do what the Democratic Party failed to do. Stand up for your beliefs. I understand your desire to leave, I had it myself. I looked at the Web sites, downloaded the information, and looked at jobs, but then I realized that I was doing exactly what they wanted.

The lines have been drawn; it is the battle between light and dark. Do not let the dark take over. Do not think of it as good verses evil, but truth verses fear. He ran on a fear platform. He appealed to their fears to get their votes. It may appear that darkness has the upper hand but it is an illusion, a phantom. We must make a stand.

Bill Wurn
San Francisco

Bigots need more time

Properly viewed, the gay marriage bans that passed on Election Day in 11 states should energize all queers; as my generation was strengthened by earlier attempts to suppress us in Florida and with the Briggs initiative here in California. The marriage activists would do well to enroll others who went before them to give some long-view perspective to the current struggles. Let us not be our own worst enemies in stubborn pursuit of short-term immediate objectives. After we've had 20 years of wide acceptance of domestic partnership laws, we could begin again for legal marriage. Senator Dianne Feinstein was right – too much, too soon, too fast. Bigots need time to shift attitudes and let go of fears about their own marriages.

John Cailleau
San Francisco

It's a grammatical thing

I wanted to respond to Paula Martinac's column about the mysterious abrasiveness of the word "lesbian" *["'Lesbian' still dirty word," Lesbian Notions, November 4]*. Though it's clear that she has put significant thought into her arguments, I have another theory for her to consider. I think the subtle grammatical differences are possibly to blame for the dirtification of the "L" word. Lesbian is a noun, and gay is commonly an adjective. It's almost as if "she's a lesbian" sounds like saying "he's a gay," "she's a black," "he's a Mexican." The adjective seems so much more politically correct, more an identifying assistant than an all-encompassing label of identity. It's unfortunate that there's a void in the place for an appropriate adjective for us women-loving women. In print as well as verbally – i.e. John Kerry's fumbling mention of Mary Cheney – using nouns to describe someone's difference or minority status is a big no-no. You can't go around saying "Joe Schmo, a leper, says his new flat screen TV is fabulous." My point? Sometimes using an adjective like the word "gay" can prove easier on the ears for the sake of appreciating the complexity of who we are as humans.

Lori Musicer
San Francisco

Let's have a dirty dyke phrase, or two

Thanks to Paula Martinac for her (and John Kerry's) reclamation of the word "lesbian." I always applaud the use of that word whenever I hear it in a positive light.

I did have one comment, however. Ms. Martinac writes "...muff diver or various other explicit phrases I can't write here." Maybe she's being tongue-in-cheek with this modesty. I just wanted to point out that in a newspaper riddled with boys' bare butts and cartoon penises, I don't think it would be too daring to throw in a dirty dyke phrase or two. In fact, in the male-dominated *Bay Area Reporter*, I believe it would be a damn good idea!

Maureen Futtner
San Francisco

Colin Farrell's potty mouth

Colin Farrell, "international superstar" of the new *Alexander* film, now makes his contribution to the ever-increasing debasement of standards in speech and print *["Alexander the great gay," November 18]*. I happen to be one who loves and defends the beauty and worth of our language, and who looks to people who have achieved positions of privilege and fame to set a good example for their public. For all the so-called international stature of this star conducting his interview at the St. Regis Hotel in New York, the dignity and class one might expect from a public figure in such a regal setting are sadly lacking. Rather, we are offered sophomoric and vulgar references to male and female genitalia, partying, and the "F" word used more times in the last paragraph alone than worth counting.

Is this really what we gay men need or even still want? Are we so desperate for yet another glimpse of male physicality that we are willing to overlook the crudity explicit in that interview? What a contribution to speech and manners for people to read and perhaps emulate as "cool." At this moment, I, more than ever, mourn the loss of Christopher Reeve. There was a true gentleman, a beautiful man, and a real star.

Joseph McEneany
San Francisco

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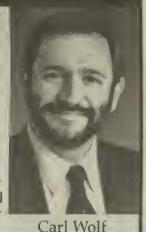
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Keeping it in the family

by Gwendolyn Ann Smith



Christine Smith

It was 10 years ago this month that I began the public part of my gender transition in earnest, when I started living and working as the woman I am today.

I would like to be able to say that I did not face any bumps on that road. Instead, I found employment difficult after I lost the job at which I initially began my transition. I became a potential target of violence and discrimination overnight. I lost a few acquaintances along the way who simply were not comfortable with this change in the person they knew. Perhaps most difficult was the loss of my family.

Hardest for me, in those early days of my transition, was losing my father. When I came out to him, I saw him cry for the first time in my life. He was broken-hearted, and I wasn't far behind. He also made it clear that he did not want to see me – possibly forever.

The day before I began my transition, my father gave me a hug, and told me that he loved me. For several years, that was the last we spoke to each other.

For many like me, our families have the hardest time with our transgender status. Compared to many stories, mine was relatively pleasant. In the last decade or so, I have heard nearly every possible outcome to disclosing one's "transgender-ness" to parents, spouses, siblings, and others. I've even known more than one transperson tossed out in the street, and some who have had to take out restraining orders against their kin just to provide a semblance of safety.

Transmissions

I suppose there are plenty of reasons for that. When our parents end up with a child of their own, they do hope to make a better life for that child. I know that was what my parents had hoped for in my life, and I know that me growing up to become a woman was not something they had considered. After all, Dr. Benjamin Spock never wrote about raising a transgender child.

For many, how one's child "turns out" is viewed as a sign of how good the parents are – and even though there's plenty of evidence to point to transgenderism as a situation that could form well before birth, many parents still want to view their child being transgender as somehow being "their fault." As if blame needs to be laid.

Our significant others, too, can be affected so strongly by this. Aside from their own feelings toward having a transgender partner – and there are plenty of horror stories to go along with this – they too can try to take the blame, feeling that they are somehow not providing something to their partner, and this somehow ends up "causing" their mate's transgender feelings. Never mind that their partner may have had feelings related to being transgender that date back for years, even decades, before they ever met.

Indeed, fostering our family relationships can be trying during a gender transition. In some families, a deep-seated religious conviction can stand completely in the way: the belief that a family member is "going to Hell" for simply being oneself is a hard thing to overcome in a conservative family, no question.

For those of us that are transgender, we often end up losing those we hold dear, and can often end up feeling isolated, alone, and rejected by those we thought would love us unconditionally. I know from my own experiences how painful this can be.

So, why tell you such a story of pain and difficulty?

The holidays are looming, and this time usually dedicated to family gatherings can be one that compounds the isolation that can be faced by being transgender. If we are lucky, our parents might ask us to "dress as ___" as a condition of family gatherings – an option none of us living full time really have.

So I implore upon everyone reading this who has transgender friends to reach out this holiday season, and make them part of your chosen family this year. It could be the best gift you could consider giving, especially for those of us who do not have a birth family to rely on.

For those out there who are transgender, and find themselves having to deal with the very things I mention above, know that you are not alone, and there truly are people out there who may well care for you – some of which you may not yet have met.

I offer my own story, to tell you that there is always hope. Even after you are sure your family will never speak with you again – time and fate can step in.

It was seven years after I transitioned that my father talked to me again – when a cousin of mine was in the hospital. That cousin passed away, and this led to my father and I both being at the funeral.

It was a difficult moment, but we both began to talk for the first time in years. It was the beginning of healing between us, and allowed my father to see that I could be transgender and still be his child.

Two months ago, my father, for the first time ever, called me his daughter. This was a milestone, and one that I had long decided would simply never come to pass.

He took yet another step just a week ago, nearly 10 years to the day he hugged me and said goodbye.

He told me he was proud of me. ▼

Gwen Smith thanks those who attended the Transgender Day of Remembrance. You can find her on the World Wide Web at www.gwensmith.com.

Lockout

◀ *page 5*

ed an opportunity to move on those economic issues that remain on the table."

The union and the hotels still disagree over health insurance costs and contract length.

"There is an opportunity to finalize a contract – the hotels' number one objective," French said. "That dynamic exists now and with that, they wanted to get their workers back and move forward and start negotiating. There's an opportunity to get a deal."

"Come on, let's look at this, let's step back," said Casey. "The lockout is an employer weapon designed to squeeze the workers to give in to what the employer wants. When the lockout became unsuccessful it turned against them, became a weapon in which the union bludgeoned them. It became clear their lockout was not such an effective weapon. ... We turned it around so it hurts them more than it hurts us. There was no hope to use the lock out against us. Ultimately, some bean counter looked at the bottom line and saw it was not a good business decision."

Casey attributed the lockout's conclusion to the guarantee of unemployment insurance, Newsom's support, convention cancellations, and labor actions in other cities.

"When workers are collecting unemployment insurance with money donated to keep people from being evicted, it is no longer a viable tool against us," he said.

"We said all along they have to end the lockout for any negotiations to occur. They tried to do it with a gun held to us. We kept on organizing."

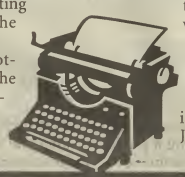
On September 29 the workers struck four hotels and two weeks later were locked out of those four and 10 others. They agreed to end their strike last month, but the SFMEG decided the lockout would continue until an agreement was reached on a new contract. ▼

Amend for Arnold? It isn't very likely

by Wayne Friday

When Senate Judiciary Committee chairman Senator **Orrin Hatch** (R-Utah) held a hearing last month on a proposal to amend the U.S. Constitution to remove the requirement that only U.S.-born citizens could become president, the Senate took a small step toward opening the door for an Austrian-born former actor now running California to run for president.

Indeed, Representative **Dana Rohrabacher** (R-Huntington Beach), a political supporter of California Governor **Arnold Schwarzenegger** who had introduced a companion measure in the House of Representatives only weeks earlier, actually commented that "this hearing would not be complete if the name of Arnold Schwarzenegger was not mentioned at least once." Political supporters of Schwarzenegger, no doubt quietly urged on by the governor himself, have taken the step further by currently running television ads on cable stations across the state supporting such a change to the Constitution.



Our Man Friday

So, what are the bottom-line chances that the Constitution will actually be amended to aid Schwarzenegger and others who have become naturalized citizens? Not very good. In fact, not likely at all. Those wanting to make the constitutional change definitely face a daunting, uphill battle. Public opinion polls show weak support for the idea and though the new incoming Congress likely will hold additional hearings on the idea next year, even if the Republican-controlled Congress were to somehow approve the plan – a move that requires a two-thirds passage of each house – the amendment would still have to win approval in 38 of the 50 state legislatures, the control of which is split between the two major parties.

No, a constitutional change to allow foreign-born citizens to become president won't happen – for Schwarzenegger; **Jennifer Granholm** (D), the popular Canadian-born governor of Michigan; former Secretary of State **Madeleine Albright**, a native of Czechoslovakia; or any number of others. In fact, the Constitution has only been amended 17 times since the Bill of Rights was ratified in 1781, and the Founding Fathers supposedly included the native-born provision in the Constitution because of fears that a wealthy European aristocrat with allegiances to another country could actually buy his way into control of this country, according to many political scientists.

Some reportedly back a planned amendment that would require a new citizen to wait awhile – likely making it a requirement that a candidate indeed be an American citizen for 35 years before becoming eligible to seek the presidency. Schwarzenegger, incidentally, is already 57 years old, and it isn't likely that any such plan would make it through Congress, if for no other reason than so many Democratic members would oppose the idea because of Schwarzenegger. Many Republicans with conflicting political aspirations wouldn't be too crazy about it either.



Jane Philomen Cleland

Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger

Even if the Constitution were to be changed, a provision would almost certainly prevent it from taking effect for a minimum of 10 years. However, helping Schwarzenegger is exactly what the new group www.amend-forarnold.com, started by **Lissa Morgenthaler-Jones** of Menlo Park, is hoping for. Morgenthaler-Jones, a Bay Area co-chair of Schwarzenegger's gubernatorial campaign last year, went to Washington last month to attend the Senate hearing, where she distributed "Amend for Arnold" buttons, bumper stickers, and T-shirts.

And where does Senator **Dianne Feinstein** (D-California), arguably the state's most popular politician (okay, she's right up there with Arnold in that category) stand on changing the Constitution to allow foreign-born presidents? "I don't think it's unfair to say the president of the United States should be native-born because your allegiance is driven by your birth," Feinstein said recently, and added that "I am reluctant but have not fully made up my mind" about supporting such an amendment.

On election night this month, Schwarzenegger's supporters were openly wearing those Amend for Arnold buttons at his Beverly Hills party, and on a recent appearance on CBS' *60 Minutes*, when asked by correspondent **Morley Safer** whether he would like to be able to run for president, Schwarzenegger eagerly replied: "Yes. Absolutely. I think, you know, because what not? I mean, you know, anyone that is – that is, like, with my way of thinking, you always shoot for the top, you know?" President Arnold Schwarzenegger? Don't bet on it. He's likely to qualify for the retired actors home before he becomes qualified for the White House.

Politics and people

Our very own Assemblyman **Mark Leno** (D-San Francisco) and legendary Hollywood film star **Shirley MacLaine** were honored by the American Foundation for AIDS Research last Wednesday at the organizations' annual fall benefit at San Francisco's Ritz Carlton; Leno and MacLaine were awarded the amFAR Courage Award for their longtime contributions to the global fight against AIDS.

Leno, incidentally, tells me that he will definitely be introducing his Marriage License Non-Discrimination Act when the new Legislature meets for a short session on December 6 and the popular lawmaker is confident he has the votes to get it to the governor's desk in the next session.

Remember when only a year or so ago that the national Republican Party had pointedly targeted California's Senator **Barbara Boxer** (D) for defeat? Well, the GOP picked up four U. S. Senate seats in the November 2 election, but Boxer beat back **Bill Jones**, her GOP opponent, by more than 2 million votes. In fact, her vote total was the third highest in the country, following President **George W. Bush** and Senator **John Kerry** in the presidential contest.

And yes, Senator Dianne Feinstein (D-California) tells me she will "definitely" be running for re-election in 2006, so, I guess the only question that remains is whether Arnold Schwarzenegger will, as some rumors have it, pass on re-election to the governor's office and run against Feinstein instead (that way Arnold could cajole his congressional colleagues in the Capitol Hill cloakrooms to amend that Constitution the way he would like). Dianne versus Arnold – what a mud fight that would be.

Thankfully, Proposition 62, the so-called open primary scheme, was defeated on November 2; it was a lousy plan that deserved to lose, but its backers likely will bring it back on a future ballot.

Meanwhile, Proposition 66, that would have modified the totally unfair three strikes law, also lost, thanks to the combined efforts of Governor Schwarzenegger and former Governors **Pete Wilson**, **George Deukmejian**, **Gray Davis,** and **Jerry Brown**.

Jerry Brown, now mayor of Oakland, will be a candidate for California attorney general in 2006 (quick, think of another good lawyer for the job). Which brings me to the name of **Milton Marks III**, who led the field for San Francisco Community College Board; look for that guy to run for the state Legislature soon.

And better late than never: The Topeka City Council in Kansas last week approved an ordinance making it illegal for the city to discriminate on the basis of sexual orientation.

Of course, Supervisor **Chris Daly**'s never-ending childish temper tantrums have even his allies embarrassed, but Supervisor **Michela Alioto-Pier**'s measure to censure him might not be the way to go – wait and throw Daly out of office. I can think of half a dozen candidates in District 6 who could unseat him. Like everything else, Daly predictably blamed the Alioto-Pier idea on the "Newsom machine." I mean, is this spoiled rich kid with the foul mouth an accident waiting to happen, or what? I often don't agree with Supervisor **Matt Gonzalez**, but unlike Daly, the outgoing board president is a soft-spoken, reasonable, classy guy, and publicly telling constituents to "F— off" is something you'd never near from him. Daly owes the public – and his

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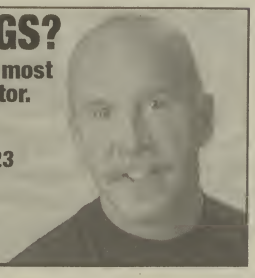
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The California model

by Dale Carpenter

OutRight

The two guideposts in the battle for gay marriage in the coming years must be federalism and incrementalism. Federalism means focusing on the states. Incrementalism means taking things slowly. Fortunately, we have a successful template for the recognition of gay relationships. While others were grabbing headlines with dramatic judicial victories, gay Californians were quietly and patiently convincing state legislators to experiment with increasing degrees of legal protection for gay couples. There's still no gay marriage in California, but we're getting awfully close. Here's how it was done.

When first created in 1999, California's domestic partnership program was little more than a formal registry. Two adults of the same sex could sign up as domestic partners if they lived together, agreed to be responsible for each other's basic living expenses, and promised "to share one another's lives in an intimate and committed relationship of mutual caring." A domestic partner could terminate the partnership simply by writing a note to the other partner.

That first year, the program created few tangible protections. Domestic partners were given hospital visitation rights. And cities in California were allowed, but not required, to offer the domestic partners of their employees the same benefits as spouses. That's it.

The next year, 2000, voters in California passed the Knight initiative, which banned gay marriage. Progress in adding to the rights of domestic partners that year was exceedingly modest. Domestic partners were permitted to secure housing in specially designed accessible residences for the elderly. The Legislature also passed a bill allowing domestic partners to use family medical leave to care for a sick partner, but Governor Gray Davis vetoed the bill, insisting on an "off-season" for gay-related legislation.

The following year, 2001, saw more dramatic progress. Among many other advances, domestic partners were given the right to use stepparent adoption procedures; to sue for the wrongful death of a partner; to make medical decisions for an incapacitated partner; and to use sick leave to care for an ill partner. The state also agreed not to tax the value of domestic partner health insurance coverage.

In 2001, legislators also proposed to treat a domestic partner as a "spouse" for purposes of inheritance when a partner dies intestate, that is, without a will. But the idea was shelved when Davis threatened to veto it.

In 2002, in the wake of the September 11 attacks, Davis reversed his position and signed the intestacy bill. Other minor progress was made that year, including a law allowing domestic partners to receive the birth and death records of a partner.

In 2003, the California Legislature dramatically expanded the rights and duties of domestic partners. Effective January 1, 2005, domestic partners will be treated like spouses under state law, except for state income tax purposes. (A proposal to allow domestic partners to file joint state income tax returns was withdrawn after a state agency estimated it would cost more than $5 million in lost revenues in the first year alone.) A domestic partner can no longer terminate the relationship simply by sending a note to the other partner. Now the partners will have to get the equivalent of a divorce.

What started as almost nothing for gay partners in 1999 will have become shadow marriage by 2005. Yet there has been no great public outcry in the state, in contrast to the political upheavals that followed the revolutionary judicial victories in Hawaii (1993), Vermont (1999), and Massachusetts (2003).

Two factors account for the difference. First, California domestic partnerships were created democratically. California is so far the only state to enact legislation of general applicability recognizing gay relationships without being forced to do so by courts. This gives people, including losers in the political process, the satisfaction of having been heard by their representatives. As we have seen, courts can be overruled by constitutional amendments. When victories are earned democratically, they're seen as more legitimate and are therefore more secure.

Second, California's gay lobbyists and openly gay legislators proceeded incrementally. They compromised, backing off when necessary. In retrospect, we should thank Governor Davis for occasionally applying the brakes for us.

Incrementalism does a couple of important things. It forces those uncomfortable with gay relationships to deal with concrete questions rather than abstractions. While it's easy to oppose "gay marriage," it's politically difficult to oppose any single one of the benefits and responsibilities that comprise the legal status of marriage. Sure, gay marriage will destroy civilization. But will it destroy civilization to recognize, for example, the right to file for state disability benefits on behalf of a mentally ill domestic partner, as California did in 2001? It's very difficult for anyone but the most hardened homophobe to oppose that.

Incrementalism also gives the public time to adjust to each advance. One fear of gay marriage is that it will destabilize families. Proceeding by degrees, we can demonstrate that measures to shore up gay families do not threaten heterosexual ones.

With the federal government firmly in the hands of antigay conservatives, and with the courts growing fearful of backlash, it's time to pour resources into state legislatures like California's. In a few states, like Connecticut, it may be possible to achieve a near-marriage equivalent in one piece of legislation. In most other states, we'll have to move gradually. There's just no excuse now for legislative inaction in friendly places like New York, Illinois, and New Jersey.

Think big. Start small. ▼

Dale Carpenter is a law professor. Some of his past columns can be read at www.indegayforum.com. He can be reached at OutRight@aol.com.

Celebration for seniors



Jane Philomen Cleland

Allison Rodman, left, puts a sock on the foot of her daughter Elanna Rodman-Mueiler, 2, as Phyllis Lyon looks on, while in the background, Ina May Murri talks with Del Martin at the Lavender Seniors' 10th anniversary party. The gala event took place November 14 at the Montclair Women's Cultural Arts Club in Oakland. Lavender Seniors offers social activities and other services for those age 55 and over in Alameda and portions of Contra Costa counties. For more information, visit www.lavenderseniors.org.

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Tagger fingered

By Jane Warner

Crime & Punishment

18th and Church, November 19, 8:10 p.m.: After getting off the Muni coach 33 at 18th and Church, a man witnessed a teenager "tagging" the back of a bus with a white spray paint can. After the bus pulled away, the suspect went over to another group of teenagers, who started to applaud. Angered, the witness called 911 on his cell phone. Officers arrived and searched the area for the suspect – described as a white male, approximately 19-21 years old, wearing a red baseball hat – and soon spotted him walking nearby. "I didn't do it, I didn't do anything," he pleaded. As officers searched his clothing, however, they found a white spray paint can in one pocket and a red felt marker in the other. The suspect, 18, was taken to Mission Station but later released. Officers were unable to locate the damaged bus.

Would-be robber stopped

Pyramid Video, 299 Guerrero Street, November 19, 11:33 a.m.: A man walked into the small video store and started to look around. After awhile, he came up to the counter and asked the owner, "Is anyone here?" The owner, who had just been robbed a few days ago and was alone in the store with her 2-year-old son, was scared by the question. The suspect then asked her, "How much money do you have?" and lifted up a jacket he had draped over his arm revealing a folded out pocket knife. The suspect then raised the knife to the woman's chin. Fearing for her life, the owner pushed the hold up alarm, held up a canister of mace, and screamed, "Get out of here." The culprit – described as a white male, 40-50 years old, 5 feet 10 inches tall, 160 pounds, wearing a blue shirt and blue jeans – fled out the store in an unknown direction.

Hot hood ornament

3800 block of 18th Street, November 8, 6:34 p.m.: A woman leaving her car parked in front of her residence saw a man staggering down the sidewalk obviously intoxicated. The man stumbled and landed on top of the hood of her vehicle, a newer Mercedes station wagon. The woman told him to leave, but the drunk only yelled obscenities. The woman went inside her residence and from a window observed the drunk rip off he car's silver hood ornament. Calling 911, the woman watched as the suspect staggered westbound on 18th Street and passed out in front of another house. When officers arrived they found the drunk in the same position with the hood ornament in his hand. The 18-year-old suspect was taken to Mission Station and booked for vandalism.

Robbery

17th and Dolores, November 19, 3:35 a.m.: A man walking near 17th and Dolores suddenly heard footsteps coming up quickly behind him. Before he could react, two men forced him to the ground. The men then began to punch and kick him. "Give me all you money, nigga," one of the suspects demanded. Fearing for his life, the victim told the robbers they could have anything they wanted. The suspects reached into his pockets and took the victim's cell phone, his driver's license, house keys, and about $20. The assailants, described as African American in their mid-20s, fled in an older red hatchback with a possible plate of 2PJC418. Police responded to the scene and searched the area for he robbers but could not find them. ▼

TG activism

◀ page 1

you, because you're not. Hold your head high," Guerrero told students in the audience. Guerrero's daughter Araujo, 17, was murdered in October 2002 at a house party in Newark by a group of men who discovered that she was biologically male. A trial for three defendants earlier this year ended in a hung jury; a retrial is slated for next May.

To parents and teachers, Guerrero emphasized that loving and respecting all children should be a priority. "We're all different. But we all deserve equality across the board."

Araujo, who came out to her mother at the age of 14, identified as female but never used the word "transgender" and did not have the necessary tools to fight bigotry on her school. She was ostracized and threatened in the Newark school system, said Guerrero, and she was forced to use the men's room where she did not belong. Eventually, when her safety was at stake and administrators refused to protect her, Araujo stopped attending school.

"This was an intelligent child of mine who deserved an education like anyone else," said Guerrero.

Youth activist Caleb Ryen, a female-to-male transgender graduate of American High School in Fremont, said his experience was better than Araujo's, but that schools need to ensure all gender identities are protected and encouraged. The binary gender system, which tends to require males to be masculine men and females to be "damsels in distress," he said, is enforced in school systems. There are more than two genders, said Ryen, and institutionalizing binary gender "forces students to conform to something that's not really them, at a time when they are supposed to be finding themselves."

The new *Beyond the Binary* publication addresses all genders along the spectrum, including those that are more binary-identified but are often refused recognition due to stereotypes and notions about what "real" men and women look like.

The booklet offers student leaders and activists resources for empowering themselves, educating others, and fighting discrimination. Topics include legal rights – state law prohibits public and non-religious private schools from forcing students to use the locker rooms and bathrooms associated with their birth sex, for instance – as well as how to negotiate fair treatment in schools and when to file a complaint.

"Education can make change," the booklet notes. "Through student organizing and activism you can work with other students to ensure that your school has good policies that protect students of all genders and create a safe space at your school." ▼

Copies of Beyond the Binary are available at www.gsanetwork.org; www.transgenderlawcenter.org; and www.nclrights.org.

Friday

◀ page 9

colleagues – an apology for his repeated boorish outbursts.

Okay, yes, I've already heard those Washington rumors about Secretary of State-designate **Condoleezza Rice**, but I'm not about to repeat them (Bush does seem to be very trustful of her, doesn't he?) And a reader sends this about the recent heart attack scare of **Dick Cheney**: "I am so relieved now that I know Vice President Dick Cheney isn't critically ill! President Bush without Cheney is like Charlie McCarthy without Edgar Bergen."

And to the victor go the spoils: One-third of President Bush's top 2000 fundraisers or their spouses were appointed to positions in his first administration, from ambassadorships to seats on policy-setting boards, according to a recent AP report; at least two dozen of the 246 "Pioneers" (those who raised at least $100,000) of the 2000 campaign became ambassadors, mostly to Europe. Just think of what the second Bush term can bring – overnight stays at the White House and Camp David, parties at the White House and Bush's Texas ranch, state dinners with world leaders, overseas travel (at taxpayer expense) with U.S. delegations, etc. Oh, the fun of being a rich Bush Republican.

And finally, where this column began – **Julie Tankenson** writes to the *Los Angeles Times* that "I'm in favor of a constitutional amendment to allow foreign-born citizens to become president only after we have a woman, an American Indian, an African American, a Jew, a Muslim, an atheist, or a homosexual who have the experience and intellect to be president."

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Noble to leave Stonewall Democrats

by Bob Roehr

Dave Noble will step down as executive director of National Stonewall Democrats early next year, two years after assuming the position. The organization has begun a search for his replacement.

He oversaw an increase in the staff of NSD, increased political activity, and increased influence within the Democratic Party, though much of that could be attributed to the cyclical pattern seen in presidential election years.

Noble is also credited with increasing NSD's national operations and grassroots structure, including the creation of more than 30 local chapters.

"It has been an honor to work with our state and local activists during these past two years," Noble said in a statement.

Noble's short tenure is characteristic of NSD, which has struggled with issues of continuity, financing, and identity throughout its existence. Many gay Democrats have chosen to contribute and work directly within the party rather than through Stonewall.

The local chapters predate the national organization and have a strong tradition of autonomy. The national organization has been closely identified with Representative Barney Frank (D-Massachusetts), who has tirelessly appeared as the star at many of its fundraising events.

All three of the current executive directors of the national gay political organizations come from within a 50-mile radius of Boston. Cheryl Jacques, president of the Human Rights Campaign, and Patrick Guerriero, executive director of Log Cabin Republicans, both grew up in the Boston suburbs. Noble was born and raised in Rhode Island, which is becoming a suburb of Boston for many people.

If one includes Matt Foreman, executive director of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, then the political leadership pool expands all the way to Manhattan.

This is the first change in the leadership of a LGBT political organization following what many saw as a traumatic election. ▼

Medical pot bill introduced in Senate

by Liz Highleyman

Just before the end of a shortened lame duck session, three U.S. senators last week introduced a bill that would allow defendants in some federal medical marijuana cases to mount a more thorough defense.

Senator Richard Durbin (D-Illinois), along with Senators Patrick Leahy (D) and Jim Jeffords (I), both from Vermont, on November 17 introduced a bill that would ensure that juries in federal marijuana trials are permitted to hear testimony about medicinal use and state laws.

Senate bill S-2989 – similar to the "Truth in Trials Act" (HR-1717) introduced in the House of Representatives last year – would allow use of the "medical necessity" defense against federal drug charges in states that have medical marijuana laws on their books. Such testimony has been excluded in the past because the federal government does not recognize any accepted medical uses for cannabis.

"Under this legislation, defendants in the 10 states with medicinal marijuana laws could be found not guilty of violating federal law if their actions are done in compliance with state law," said Durbin.

Montana became the 10th state to pass a medical marijuana law earlier this month.

The Senate and House bills were motivated in part by the trial of Bay Area cannabis expert Ed Rosenthal, who was arrested in February 2002 and convicted the following January on three federal counts of cannabis cultivation.

Federal Judge Charles Breyer did not permit jurors to hear testimony to the effect that Rosenthal had been deputized by the city of Oakland to grow marijuana for patients in accordance with California's Compassionate Use Act of 1996 (Proposition 215). Upon learning the facts behind the case after the trial, a majority of the jurors publicly denounced the verdict. Breyer denied Rosenthal's motion for a new trial, but in June 2003 sentenced him to just one day in prison.

"As it stands today, federal law denies medical marijuana defendants a basic right that every other defendant has, the right to explain what they did to the jury," said Robert Kampia of the Marijuana Policy Project. "Jurors who could imprison someone for decades have a right to hear the whole truth, not a censored version that is stripped of facts the federal government doesn't like."

The current Congress will likely adjourn for the year before S-2989 receives a hearing, which would require that the bill be reintroduced in the next session. ▼

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Rep. Bono warns against rush for gay marriage

by Matthew S. Bajko

California is not ready to become the West Coast's gay marriage capital, as Massachusetts is on the East Coast, said a Republican congresswoman on the eve of being honored by a local gay group.

Representative Mary Bono (R-Palm Springs) is set to receive an honorary award from the San Francisco chapter of Log Cabin Republicans next month for her opposition to the passage of a Federal Marriage Amendment in Congress this year. Speaking from her Washington D.C. office by phone in an interview with the *Bay Area Reporter*, Bono also voiced her opposition to efforts by local gay rights groups and politicians to legalize same-sex marriage in the state.

"I don't believe the state of California is ready for it. You would see tremendous backlash," warned Bono on Friday, November 19 when asked if she supported a marriage equality bill being pushed by state Assemblyman Mark Leno (D-Francisco). "I think it is important, again, to think carefully here about timing. It wasn't too long ago that the state of California passed a marriage protection measure. I don't know if the timing is right yet to go further with it."

Told of Bono's comments, Leno said he will await a call from her, so that "she can tell me when the time is right. I appreciate that Representative Bono thinks she knows when the right time is for all of California's families and all of California's children to be provided full equal treatment under state law."

In December Leno intends to reintroduce his Marriage License Non-Discrimination Act in the state Legislature and has said that he has lined up enough support to expect that his bill will pass both the Assembly and Senate next year. This spring he tabled the bill, which would allow county clerks to grant marriage licenses to same-sex couples, after failing to round up enough votes in the Assembly to ensure its passage.

"I agree with Log Cabin Republicans that the only remedy to the recognized discrimination of loving same-sex couples is marriage equality," said Leno.

The state courts will return to the same-sex marriage issue on December 22 when San Francisco Superior Court Judge Richard A. Kramer begins hearings "on the merits" of the constitutionality of discriminatory state marriage laws. Kramer has been assigned to rule on numerous court challenges to California's marriage laws brought by the city of San Francisco and gay rights groups on behalf of a dozen gay and lesbian couples as well as countersuits filed by antigay groups and state Attorney General Bill Lockyer's office that seek to ensure marriage remains an institution between a man and a woman.

Bono said, "I don't believe in gay marriage. I believe in civil unions. That I would very much like to see, that is the perfect compromise our society should accept."

As for her opposition to the FMA, she said it is based on her support of states' rights.

"I don't support amending the Constitution for much of anything," said the 43-year-old Bono. "Again, first and foremost, marriage should be left up to the states. California should do what it wants to do and the state of Massachusetts should do what it has to. It is just a matter of perhaps finding the right time for these things."

Whereas leading Democrats, including United States Senator and former San Francisco Mayor Dianne Feinstein, have pointed to the gay marriage issue as a major reason why Democratic presidential candidate Senator John Kerry lost, Bono disagreed with that assessment. Asked if she felt San Francisco Mayor Gavin Newsom, who ordered city officials to marry same-sex couples last February, shouldered part of the blame for Kerry's defeat, Bono responded "pinning it on the mayor of San Francisco is oversimplifying things."

In looking back on the election results, Bono said there were myriad issues that affected how people voted, not just gay marriage.

"First and foremost, even above what people are collectively calling 'moral issues,' it is the war on terror and national security. That is first and foremost what is on Americans' minds," she said.



Rep. Mary Bono

Bono's stances on gay marriage place her at odds with her own party, which opposes giving any rights to LGBT couples, whether it be marriage or civil unions. While President Bush voiced support for civil unions a week prior to the election, he remains adamantly opposed to gay marriage and has actively pushed for the passage of the FMA. His advisers have signaled that the administration is intent on reintroducing the FMA in Congress.

One of the few

Being one of the few moderates left in her party, or in Congress for that matter, has drawn her to support gay Republicans, Bono said, who also feel at times like the odd man out.

"I share with them the fact they were not as included in the party. That is why I like to be a champion for them, I believe gay Republicans truly are great people," said Bono, who for the last three years has sat on Log Cabin's national board as an honorary trustee. "I am very proud to support people who fight for what they believe in, even when they seem like unwanted step children. I really applaud their bravery and their tenacity."

Her dogged support of the group, even this year as she ran for re-election in a conservative leaning district as Log Cabin went on the attack against Bush's gay marriage stance, is exactly why Bono should be honored by the gay community, said Paul Lynd, president of the San Francisco Log Cabin chapter.

"Her views and the progression she has made in office, she is just a breath of fresh air. Absolutely, we would like more Republicans like Mary to be elected," said Lynd. "We need to protect what few moderates we have left in the party and we need to honor them."

At their annual dinner Saturday, December 4, the Log Cabin chapter will present Bono with its Matlovich Defender of Freedom Award, which honors former chapter member Leonard Matlovich, who died of AIDS in 1987. A decorated Vietnam veteran who served in the Air Force, Matlovich successfully sued in the 1970s to be re-enlisted after he was kicked out for being gay.

"It is given to members of the club and other Republicans who have made a difference in the community and the party in terms of equality and making it a more inclusive party," explained Lynd. "The fact that Mary doesn't [support gay marriage] we don't have a problem with that at all. She has been so great on other issues; she is a strong opponent of the FMA and that is really the important thing. We may not get marriage this year or next year, but we don't want the door closed on us forever with a constitutional amendment."

The Log Cabin award is only the second time Bono will be honored by a gay community group. Last year she received a humanitarian award from the Desert AIDS Project for her support of AIDS funding.

"Mary is one of the leading Republican moderates in the House. In the time she has been in Congress, she has been a tremendous supporter of Log Cabin and our issues. But she has never been recognized by our community like she needs to be," said Lynd.

Family matters

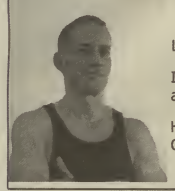
After the death of her first husband, Congressman Sonny Bono, due to a skiing accident, Mary Bono won a special election in 1998 to serve in her husband's seat and has won re-election ever since. Three years ago, on November 24, Bono married businessman Glenn Baxley.

Bono is close with two openly gay family members, Sonny's daughter Chastity and Glenn's brother Sean, an openly gay man who works for the Gap in San Francisco. He and his boyfriend are taking Bono and her husband out to dinner at AsiaSF, where Asian gender illusionists perform in between waiting on tables.

"I am really looking forward to it. I don't know what else my family has up their sleeves," she said of her visit to the Bay Area. Her husband's family is from the East Bay

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INDICATION: Reyataz (atazanavir sulfate) is a prescription medicine used in combination with other medicines to treat people who are infected with the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV). Reyataz has been studied in 48-week trials in both patients who have taken or have never taken anti-HIV medicines.

Reyataz does not cure HIV or help prevent passing HIV to others.

IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION:

Do not take Reyataz if you are taking the following medicines: ergot medicines, Versed®, Halcion®, Orap®, Propulsid®, Camptosar®, Crixivan®, Mevacor®, Zocor®, rifampin, St. John's wort, AcipHex®, Nexium®, Prevacid®, Prilosec® or Protonix®. Do not use Viagra®, Levitra®, Cialis®, or Vfend® while you are taking Reyataz without first speaking with your healthcare provider. **This list of medicines is not complete. Discuss all prescription and non-prescription medicines, vitamin and herbal supplements, or other health preparations you are taking or plan to take with your healthcare provider.**

Tell your healthcare provider right away if you have any side effects or conditions, including the following:

- **A change in the way your heart beats** may occur and could be a symptom of a heart problem.
- **Diabetes and high blood sugar** may occur in patients taking protease inhibitor medicines like Reyataz.
- **Yellowing of the skin and/or eyes** may occur due to increases in bilirubin levels in the blood (bilirubin is made by the liver).
- **Rash** (redness and itching) sometimes occurs in patients taking Reyataz, most often in the first few weeks after the medicine is started, and usually goes away within two weeks with no change in treatment.
- **If you have liver disease,** including hepatitis B or C, your liver disease may get worse when you take anti-HIV medicines like Reyataz.
- **Some patients with hemophilia** have increased bleeding problems with protease inhibitor medicines like Reyataz.

Changes in body fat have been seen in some patients taking anti-HIV medicines. The cause and long-term effects are not known at this time.

Common side effects of Reyataz taken with other anti-HIV medicines include: nausea, headache, stomach pain, vomiting, diarrhea, depression, fever, dizziness, trouble sleeping, numbness, and tingling or burning of hands or feet.

You should take Reyataz once daily with food (a meal or snack). You should take Reyataz and your other anti-HIV medicines exactly as instructed by your healthcare provider.

Please see important information about REYATAZ on the next page.

Once Daily REYATAZ is a protease inhibitor (PI) that is taken in HIV combination therapy.

- **Can help raise your T-cells**
- **Can help lower your viral load to undetectable***
- **Low chance of diarrhea** (shown in clinical trials)†
- **Two pills taken once-a-day** (with a snack or meal)‡

*Undetectable is defined as a viral load of less than 400 or 50 copies/mL (depending on the test used).
† REYATAZ in combination therapy had a 1-3% rate of moderate-to-severe diarrhea.
‡ People who have taken anti-HIV medicines before usually take REYATAZ with ritonavir once daily as part of their HIV combination therapy.

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PATIENT INFORMATION

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REYATAZ® (RAY-ah-taz)

(generic name = **atazanavir sulfate**) **Capsules**

ALERT: Find out about medicines that should NOT be taken with REYATAZ. Read the section "What important information should I know about taking REYATAZ with other medicines?"

Read the Patient Information that comes with REYATAZ before you start using it and each time you get a refill. There may be new information. This leaflet provides a summary about REYATAZ and does not include everything there is to know about your medicine. This information does not take the place of talking with your healthcare provider about your medical condition or treatment.

What is REYATAZ?
REYATAZ is a prescription medicine used with other anti-HIV medicines to treat people who are infected with the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV). HIV is the virus that causes acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS). REYATAZ is a type of anti-HIV medicine called a protease inhibitor. HIV infection destroys CD4+ (T) cells, which are important to the immune system. The immune system helps fight infection. After a large number of T cells are destroyed, AIDS develops. REYATAZ helps to block HIV protease, an enzyme that is needed for the HIV virus to multiply. REYATAZ may lower the amount of HIV in your blood, help your body keep its supply of CD4+ (T) cells, and reduce the risk of death and illness associated with HIV.

Does REYATAZ cure HIV or AIDS?
REYATAZ does not cure HIV infection or AIDS. At present there is no cure for HIV infection. People taking REYATAZ may still get opportunistic infections or other conditions that happen with HIV infection. Opportunistic infections are infections that develop because the immune system is weak. Some of these conditions are pneumonia, herpes virus infections, and *Mycobacterium avium* complex (MAC) infections. **It is very important that you see your healthcare provider regularly while taking REYATAZ.**

REYATAZ does not lower your chance of passing HIV to other people through sexual contact, sharing needles, or being exposed to your blood. For your health and the health of others, it is important to always practice safer sex by using a latex or polyurethane condom or other barrier to lower the chance of sexual contact with semen, vaginal secretions, or blood. Never use or share dirty needles.

Who should not take REYATAZ?
Do not take REYATAZ if you:
- **are taking certain medicines.** (See "What important information should I know about taking REYATAZ with other medicines?") Serious life-threatening side effects or death may happen. Before you take REYATAZ, tell your healthcare provider about all medicines you are taking or planning to take. These include other prescription and nonprescription medicines, vitamins, and herbal supplements.
- **are allergic to REYATAZ or to any of its ingredients.** The active ingredient is atazanavir sulfate. See the end of this leaflet for a complete list of ingredients in REYATAZ. Tell your healthcare provider if you think you have had an allergic reaction to any of these ingredients.

What should I tell my healthcare provider before I take REYATAZ?
Tell your healthcare provider:
- **if you are pregnant or planning to become pregnant.** It is not known if REYATAZ can harm your unborn baby. Pregnant women have experienced serious side effects when taking REYATAZ with other HIV medicines called nucleoside analogues. You and your healthcare provider will need to decide if REYATAZ is right for you. If you use REYATAZ while you are pregnant, talk to your healthcare provider about the Antiretroviral Pregnancy Registry.
- **if you are breast-feeding**. You should not breast-feed if you are HIV-positive because of the chance of passing HIV to your baby. Also, it is not known if REYATAZ can pass into your breast milk and if it can harm your baby. If you are a woman who has or will have a baby, talk with your healthcare provider about the best way to feed your baby.
- **if you have liver problems or are infected with the hepatitis B or C virus**. See "What are the possible side effects of REYATAZ?"
- **if you have diabetes**. See "What are the possible side effects of REYATAZ?"
- **if you have hemophilia**. See "What are the possible side effects of REYATAZ?"
- **About all the medicines you take,** including prescription and nonprescription medicines, vitamins, and herbal supplements. Keep a list of your medicines with you to show your healthcare provider. For more information, see "What important information should I know about taking REYATAZ with other medicines?" and "Who should not take REYATAZ?" Some medicines can cause serious side effects if taken with REYATAZ.

How should I take REYATAZ?
- **Take REYATAZ once every day exactly as instructed by your healthcare provider**. Your healthcare provider will prescribe the amount of REYATAZ that is right for you.
  - For adults who have never taken anti-HIV medicines before, the usual dose is 400 mg (two 200-mg capsules) once daily taken with food.
  - For adults who have taken anti-HIV medicines in the past, the usual dose is 300 mg (two 150-mg capsules) plus 100 mg of NORVIR® (ritonavir) once daily taken with food.

Your dose will depend on your liver function and on the other anti-HIV medicines that you are taking. REYATAZ is always used with other anti-HIV medicines. If you are taking REYATAZ with SUSTIVA® (efavirenz) or with VIREAD® (tenofovir disoproxil fumarate), you should also be taking NORVIR® (ritonavir).
- **Always take REYATAZ with food** (a meal or snack) to help it work better. Swallow the capsules whole. **Do not open the capsules.** Take REYATAZ at the same time each day.
- **If you are taking antacids or VIDEX® (didanosine) Chewable/Dispersible Buffered Tablets**, take REYATAZ 2 hours before or 1 hour after these medicines.
- **Do not change your dose or stop taking REYATAZ without first talking with your healthcare provider**. It is important to stay under a healthcare provider's care while taking REYATAZ.
- **When your supply of REYATAZ starts to run low**, get more from your healthcare provider or pharmacy. It is important not to run out of REYATAZ. The amount of HIV in your blood may increase if the medicine is stopped for even a short time.
- **If you miss a dose of REYATAZ**, take it as soon as possible and then take your next scheduled dose at its regular time. If, however, it is within 6 hours of your next dose, do not take the missed dose. Wait and take the next dose at the regular time. Do not double the next dose. **It is important that you do not miss any doses of REYATAZ or your other anti-HIV medicines**.
- **If you take more than the prescribed dose of REYATAZ**, call your healthcare provider or poison control center right away.

Can children take REYATAZ?
REYATAZ has not been fully studied in children under 16 years of age. REYATAZ should not be used in babies under the age of 3 months.

What are the possible side effects of REYATAZ?
The following list of side effects is **not** complete. Report any new or continuing symptoms to your healthcare provider. If you have questions about side effects, ask your healthcare provider. Your healthcare provider may be able to help you manage these side effects.

The following side effects have been reported with REYATAZ:
- **rash** (redness and itching) sometimes occurs in patients taking REYATAZ, most often in the first few weeks after the medicine is started. Rashes usually go away within 2 weeks with no change in treatment. Tell your healthcare provider if rash occurs.
- **yellowing of the skin or eyes**. These effects may be due to increases in bilirubin levels in the blood (bilirubin is made by the liver). Call your healthcare provider if your skin or the white part of your eyes turn yellow. Although these effects may not be damaging to your liver, skin, or eyes, it is important to tell your healthcare provider promptly if they occur.
- **a change in the way your heart beats (heart rhythm change)**. Call your healthcare provider right away if you get dizzy or lightheaded. These could be symptoms of a heart problem.
- **diabetes and high blood sugar (hyperglycemia)** sometimes happen in patients taking protease inhibitor medicines like REYATAZ. Some patients had diabetes before taking protease inhibitors while others did not. Some patients may need changes in their diabetes medicine.
- **if you have liver disease** including hepatitis B or C, your liver disease may get worse when you take anti-HIV medicines like REYATAZ.
- **some patients with hemophilia** have increased bleeding problems with protease inhibitors like REYATAZ.
- **changes in body fat.** These changes may include an increased amount of fat in the upper back and neck ("buffalo hump"), breast, and around the trunk. Loss of fat from the legs, arms, and face may also happen. The cause and long-term health effects of these conditions are not known at this time.

Other common side effects of REYATAZ taken with other anti-HIV medicines include nausea; headache; stomach pain; vomiting; diarrhea; depression; fever; dizziness; trouble sleeping; numbness, tingling, or burning of hands or feet; and muscle pain.

What important information should I know about taking REYATAZ with other medicines*?
Do not take REYATAZ if you take the following medicines (not all brands may be listed; tell your healthcare provider about all the medicines you take). REYATAZ may cause serious, life-threatening side effects or death when used with these medicines.
- Ergot medicines: dihydroergotamine, ergonovine, ergotamine, and methylergonovine such as CAFERGOT®, MIGRANAL®, D.H.E. 45®, ergotrate maleate, METHERGINE®, and others (used for migraine headaches).
- HALCION® (triazolam, used for insomnia).
- VERSED® (midazolam, used for sedation).
- ORAP® (pimozide, used for Tourette's disorder).
- PROPULSID® (cisapride, used for certain stomach problems).

Do not take the following medicines with REYATAZ because of possible serious side effects:
- CAMPTOSAR® (irinotecan, used for cancer).
- CRIXIVAN® (indinavir, used for HIV infection). Both REYATAZ and CRIXIVAN sometimes cause increased levels of bilirubin in the blood.
- Cholesterol-lowering medicines MEVACOR® (lovastatin) or ZOCOR® (simvastatin).

Do not take the following medicines with REYATAZ because they may lower the amount of REYATAZ in your blood. This may lead to an increased HIV viral load. Resistance to REYATAZ or cross-resistance to other HIV medicines may develop:
- Rifampin (also known as RIMACTANE®, RIFADIN®, RIFATER®, or RIFAMATE®, used for tuberculosis).
- St. John's wort (*Hypericum perforatum*), an herbal product sold as a dietary supplement, or products containing St. John's wort.
- "Proton-pump inhibitors" used for indigestion, heartburn, or ulcers such as AcipHex® (rabeprazole), NEXIUM® (esomeprazole), PREVACID® (lansoprazole), PRILOSEC® (omeprazole), or PROTONIX® (pantoprazole).

Do not take the following medicines if you are taking REYATAZ and NORVIR® together:
- VFEND® (voriconazole).

The following medicines may require your healthcare provider to monitor your therapy more closely:
- CIALIS® (tadalafil), LEVITRA® (vardenafil), or VIAGRA® (sildenafil). REYATAZ may increase the chances of serious side effects that can happen with CIALIS, LEVITRA, or VIAGRA. Do not use CIALIS, LEVITRA, or VIAGRA while you are taking REYATAZ unless your healthcare provider tells you it is okay.
- LIPITOR® (atorvastatin). There is an increased chance of serious side effects if you take REYATAZ with this cholesterol-lowering medicine.
- Medicines for abnormal heart rhythm: CORDARONE® (amiodarone), lidocaine, quinidine (also known as CARDIOQUIN®, QUINIDEX®, and others).
- VASCOR® (bedridil, used for chest pain).
- COUMADIN® (warfarin).
- Tricyclic antidepressants such as ELAVIL® (amitriptyline), NORPRAMIN® (desipramine), SINEQUAN® (doxepin), SURMONTIL® (trimipramine), TOFRANIL® (imipramine), or VIVACTIL® (protriptyline).
- Medicines to prevent organ transplant rejection: SANDIMMUNE® or NEORAL® (cyclosporine), RAPAMUNE® (sirolimus), or PROGRAF® (tacrolimus).

The following medicines may require a change in the dose or dose schedule of either REYATAZ or the other medicine:
- FORTOVASE®, INVIRASE® (saquinavir).
- NORVIR® (ritonavir).
- SUSTIVA® (efavirenz).
- VIDEX® (didanosine) or antacids.
- VIREAD® (tenofovir disoproxil fumarate).
- MYCOBUTIN® (rifabutin).
- Calcium channel blockers such as CARDIZEM® or TIAZAC® (diltiazem), COVERA-HS® or ISOPTIN SR® (verapamil) and others.
- BIAXIN® (clarithromycin).
- Medicines for indigestion, heartburn, or ulcers such as AXID® (nizatidine), PEPCID AC® (famotidine), TAGAMET® (cimetidine), or ZANTAC® (ranitidine).

Women who use birth control pills or "the patch" should choose a different kind of contraception. REYATAZ may affect the safety and effectiveness of birth control pills or the patch. Talk to your healthcare provider about choosing an effective contraceptive.

Remember:
1. **Know all the medicines you take.**
2. **Tell your healthcare provider about all the medicines you take.**
3. **Do not start a new medicine without talking to your healthcare provider.**

How should I store REYATAZ?
- Store REYATAZ (atazanavir sulfate) Capsules at room temperature, 59° to 86° F (15° to 30° C). Do **not** store this medicine in a damp place such as a bathroom medicine cabinet or near the kitchen sink.
- Keep your medicine in a tightly closed container.
- Throw away REYATAZ when it is outdated or no longer needed by flushing it down the toilet or pouring it down the sink.

General information about REYATAZ
This medicine was prescribed for your particular condition. Do not use REYATAZ for another condition. Do not give REYATAZ to other people, even if they have the same symptoms you have. It may harm them. **Keep REYATAZ and all medicines out of the reach of children and pets.**

This summary does not include everything there is to know about REYATAZ. Medicines are sometimes prescribed for conditions that are not mentioned in patient information leaflets. Remember, no written summary can replace careful discussion with your healthcare provider. If you would like more information, talk with your healthcare provider or you can call 1-800-426-7644.

What are the ingredients in REYATAZ?
Active Ingredient: atazanavir sulfate

Inactive Ingredients: Crospovidone, lactose monohydrate (milk sugar), magnesium stearate, gelatin, FD&C Blue #2, and titanium dioxide.

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This Patient Information Leaflet has been approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.

F1-B0001B-07-04

Based on package insert dated July 2004, 1168954A2 Revised July 2004

New study

◀ page 1

pants in the study will receive risk reduction counseling at each visit and be given free condoms and rapid HIV and STD testing and counseling. Based on past research studies, such as the VaxGen vaccine study where, although the vaccine proved a failure, the men in the study reduced their sexual risk behaviors, Buchbinder is confident the same will prove true with the Project T participants.

"The people who get into our studies reduce their risk over time," said Buchbinder. "We don't encourage risk behavior. We work hard to reduce their risk behavior."

Researchers in Atlanta and San Francisco will begin admitting 400 sexually active gay men – 200 in each city – into the study next month. Project T is a two-year phase II safety study of tenofovir versus a placebo.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention is sponsoring the human trials of using tenofovir as a pre-exposure prophylactic, or PrEP. The drug is already prescribed to HIV-positive people and has few side effects in humans. In studies involving animals, tenofovir has performed well as a preventive measure against HIV.



Chris Goodfellow, Gladstone Institutes

Dr. Robert Grant

"We don't know if it works yet in humans," explained Dr. Albert Liu, director of HIV prevention intervention studies at the health department, who added that Project T "is not designed to test the effectiveness of preventing HIV."

Rather, Buchbinder explained that Project T "is an experiment, a study to find out whether there are safety issues with taking tenofovir."

The study will be double blinded, with neither the men nor researchers knowing who is given tenofovir and who receives a placebo. To measure for behavior changes, half of the 400 men, whether receiving the placebo or the pill, will wait nine months before beginning the once-a-day regimen.

Researchers are seeking HIV-negative men age 18 to 60 who report having anal sex within the last year. They must be generally healthy with normal kidney and liver functions.

Those men in a mutually monogamous relationship for over a year with a known HIV-negative partner will be excluded from taking part, as well as anyone with a history of chronic kidney or bone disease or who is taking medications toxic to the kidneys.

High-risk men will also be excluded from the study. Those men who meet the criteria to become participants will be tested to ensure they understand the risks involved and that it is unknown if tenofovir will work as a preventive strategy.

> ***"The available data does not prove that it works. It is very important people understand we do not know whether this will work."***

"The available data does not prove that it works. It is very important people understand we do not know whether this will work," said Dr. Robert Grant, an associate investigator at the Gladstone Institute of Virology and Immunology.

Already prescribed

Despite any evidence yet that the drug is effective at stopping HIV transmission in people, some doctors have already begun to prescribe it to their patients who are negative. Local health officials also say there is growing anecdotal evidence that positive men who use the drug are giving it out to their negative friends who falsely believe by popping a tenofovir pill they can then engage in high-risk sex without condoms and be safe. For these reasons, the researchers argue the study is needed.

"People are already asking for PrEP. All this is done in a situation where we don't have data," said Buchbinder, adding it is therefore important to ask if such usage is safe in negative men. "It is the reason we jumped into the fray to ask the questions and get the data."

It is a question Project T is meant to answer. The study also will address whether men's sexual risk behavior increases because they are taking tenofovir.

"We will look at is taking a pill leading to relative increases in risk behavior. If risk behavior changes exceed the efficacy of the drug, then it is not going to be of much use," said Buchbinder. "If there is substantial, ongoing risk behavior in the group taking the pill against that not taking the pill, we will have to take appropriate action, including shutting down the study."

Grant, who's also an associate professor at the University of California at San Francisco, said researchers are looking at tenofovir because it is a nucleotide inhibitor that is effective at blocking the replication of the HIV virus in HIV-positive people.

"It blocks the viral infection basically," he said.

Tenofovir's side effects are also generally mild, with the most common including stomach problems, dizziness, headache, and rash. Less than 1 percent of HIV-positive patients treated with tenofovir stopped treatment due to these side effects.

The drug, whose brand name is Viread, occasionally causes kidney problems in people with HIV but problems usually resolve when tenofovir is stopped. Studies in animals and HIV-positive people have also shown small amounts of bone loss, without any increase in fractures. Participants in Project T will be screened over the course of the two-year study for any bone loss.

Any of the men in the study who become positive will automatically be asked to stop taking their pills and be given referrals for medical and emotional care. But researchers will still follow them for one year.

Results from the study will not be known for at least three years. If the study proves tenofovir to be safe, then researchers intend to test if it could prevent HIV infection. If that study is successful, it could provide an additional HIV prevention tool for HIV-negative gay men.

"Tenofovir taken daily is a promising new HIV prevention strategy," said Liu, stressing it is meant to be used in conjunction with other risk reduction strategies. "PrEP is recommended in addition to condoms, not as a replacement or reason to stop using condoms."

Opposition

After hearing the researchers' presentation, Gibson said he is still opposed to the study. He urged the researchers to closely watch the study group's behavior changes.

"I understand the rationale for the study and am still opposed to it," he said. "With the introduction of HAART, we saw behavior changes and people began seroconverting. There are already rumors that tenofovir works. If that is already out there, how does that roll out across the rest of the community?"

The researchers hope by working with community agencies to spread the word about Project T they can address those rumors and better educate gay men that there is no proof yet that tenofovir can protect them from HIV.

"Everyone's goal is to find out will this reduce infections. We hope it works," said Buchbinder. ▼

Those men interested in becoming study participants should call (415) 554-8888.



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Events to mark World AIDS Day

by Kevin Davis

Wednesday, December 1 is World AIDS Day, a time set aside to honor and remember all those affected by the largest epidemic in human history, now 23 years old.

Though obituaries in gay community publications have slowed in recent years, apathy or burnout to a disease some consider chronic yet manageable, the federal government's budget cutting, and LGBT young people with no reference to the horrors of CMV retinitis and Kaposi's sarcoma has resulted in increased infection rates, negligent sexual behavior, and still nightmarish numbers of people living with HIV/AIDS.

Globally, about 5 million people became infected in 2003, the greatest number in any one year since the beginning of the epidemic and bringing to a total, 38 million HIV-positive people worldwide, according to United Nations and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates.

Ninety-five percent of HIV-positive people live in the developing world. Half the people who become infected do so before age 25 and die of the disease before age 35. Twenty-five million people have died of AIDS over the last 23 years.

Almost 550,000 Americans have died over the course of the epidemic, 19,758 in San Francisco as of September 30, according to the health department.

Half of the 14,000 who will die this year are African Americans. In the U.S., 950,000 are infected; 19,000 in the city alone.

According to the California State Office of AIDS, to date there have been over 78,000 AIDS-related deaths in California.

To mark the solemn occasion, several events take place next week throughout the Bay Area.

AIDS grove

Forty thousand infections will occur this year in the U.S., spurring the National AIDS Memorial Grove's three-hour ceremony and award presentation themed "The Importance of Remembering" beginning at 11:30 a.m. at the grove in Golden Gate Park.

Speakers include a keynote address by actress and AIDS activist Judith Light, Congregation Sha'ar Zahav Rabbi Camille Shira Angel, Ayse Manyas Kenmore, and performances by jazz musician Spencer Day and the School for the Arts Choir. The grove will also present its annual award for HIV/AIDS community service.

The grove was officially designated a national memorial by Congress and President Clinton in 1996.

There are 1,404 names engraved in the Circle of Friends at the grove. Members debated the message and aesthetics of naming the fallen.

"First because we can't possibly represent every name," said grove office manager Wendy Deetz. "They didn't want it to feel like a cemetery. The whole idea is that it's a living tribute, about renewal, rebirth, always changing. They've done a fairly good job of finding a common ground. It feels alive."

The grove is located in the park at the corner of Bowling Green Drive and Middle Drive East, near the tennis courts.

The 12-acre grove started in 1988 when five friends asked the Recreation and Park Department for permission to memorialize friends by planting trees.

Up to 200 volunteers, including those from high school groups and corporations, weed, plant, and mulch at the grove every third Thursday of the month, although they take time off each winter. As a public-private partnership, the grove pays the salary of one city-employed gardener. The park nursery provides some of the plants.

MHR service

The San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus, under Artistic Director Kathleen McGuire, and Temple Emanu-El's Cantor Rosalyn Barak perform at Most Holy Redeemer Church at 7 p.m. in the third annual benefit for University of California, San Francisco AIDS Research Institute's "Breakthrough Fund." The event is billed as "an evening of remembrance, hope, and thanks to scientists for their ongoing research into HIV/AIDS" and is produced by the ARI Leadership Council Interfaith Committee.

The evening is divided into Buddhist, Jewish, and Christian prayers, candle lighting, and a portion inviting researchers to the stage to thank them personally.

The Breakthrough Fund, now in its fifth year, provides small capital grants – around $5,000 – to physicians or researchers allowing them to submit for federal funding.

"I like to think of it as a venture fund," said fundraiser Randall Shields.

Shields listed as examples of Breakthrough Fund successes, a doctor who used polio vectors as a method for finding an AIDS vaccine, and organ transplants for PWAs.

"Early in the epidemic there was a feeling there was no reason – why waste precious organs on someone who's going to die anyway," said Shields or the organ transplants. "We're one of the few places [doing it], because we took a risk and did early research."

The Academy of Friends will host a post-performance reception.

Most Holy Redeemer is located at 100 Diamond Street at 18th. There is parking is available for $5 at the Harvey Milk School, 19th and Collingwood. Call (415) 597-4650 or Shields at (415) 597-8164 for information. Tickets are $25.

MCC events

At Metropolitan Community Church-San Francisco, an AIDS quilt panel created by congregants last year will be rededicated with names added at all three services at 9 and 11 a.m. and 7 p.m. on Sunday, November 28. "They're stitching names into it right now," Eric Cole, a church office administrator, said Monday. Also on November 28 at the evening service, nurse practitioner Mary Lawrence Hicks will speak on her experience working with the AIDS epidemic in Africa.

On Wednesday December 1, the 7 p.m. chanting Taize candlelight meditation takes place. The service focuses on healing, said Cole.

Also on December 1, MCC will expand its monthly free anonymous HIV testing through the health department from 2 to 6:30 p.m.

Columbarium service

Attendees at a memorial service at San Francisco's 1898 neoclassic style Columbarium are invited to add the names of people they've lost to AIDS on a special panel to be displayed permanently.

Four panels from the AIDS Memorial Quilt will be displayed in the three-story rotunda through December 3.

The December 1 event, which is free, starts at 1 p.m. at the Columbarium, located at 1 Loraine Court in San Francisco

Day With(out) Art

Artists Against AIDS USA holds a "special day of remembrance, education and hope" on Day With(out) Art beginning with a candlelight ceremony at dusk in Union Square. Featured are speakers and special guest per-

page 23 ▶



Project Inform kicks off 20th year

by Kevin Davis

To jumpstart its 20th anniversary year, Project Inform, a national nonprofit AIDS treatment and education organization, is expanding its annual "Evening of Hope" event to include an online fundraising auction beginning on World AIDS Day.

The online "Web of Hope" auction, taking place just in time for holiday shopping, runs December 1-10 and also marks the start of a yearlong campaign of house parties in cities across the country.

"Regular donors will host little gatherings," said Martin Delaney, founding director. "They supported us all those years."

"Our family and our nearest and dearest supporters offered to host parties in their homes to increase support for the organization," said development associate Julie Doherty. "They'll invite people to come and hear more about who we are, what we do and reasons to support our work – to understand Project Inform's unique role."

"It's a two-way street," said current Executive Director Ellen LaPointe. "They can get together and share stories."

The online auction offers a variety of items, including VIP passes to a *Will & Grace* taping and Miami Fashion Week; airfare and a week's stay at a French bed and breakfast; tickets to a London theater; Gucci shoes and an Ermenegildo Zegna jacket (both custom made); travel to Palm Springs, New Orleans and Sedona, Arizona; wine tastings; sports and fitness lessons; personal chefs; art; jewelry; or an opportunity to operate SBC Park's out of town score board.

"We're trying to go for stuff that's unique and special," said Doherty.

Humble beginnings

In the early 1980s when reliable information about the AIDS was hard to get, Delaney, a Silicon Valley business consultant – while attending a support group for hepatitis B sufferers – decided to start what he thought would be a short-term AIDS treatment information project.

Tom Jefferson, who went on to found San Diego's first AIDS group, Joe Brewer, and Dave Winterhalter were Delaney's first collaborators.

"Most of the people from that era are gone," he said.

Though he recovered from his own bout with hepatitis B soon after through a Stanford clinical trial, "People were urging me to do something about this new disease," said Delaney. "So, this support group for hep B became a support group for AIDS. It was at a time when there were no treatments but some of the drugs were available in Mexico. People were going to Mexico in great numbers."

So Delaney wrote a smuggling manual on secreting drugs from Mexico into the U.S.

"The amusing thing is I wrote it in a pseudonym of the Tooth Fairy," he said.

Far from being a temporary group, Project Inform continues to provide information today.

"Project Inform was meant as a research project with a beginning, middle, and end," Delaney said. "We didn't get a lot of support doing the research. The doctors in town weren't too fond of the idea. We couldn't raise money so we did the second best thing, providing information about treatment of the disease, just again, covering clinical trials. We created some documents. In the process of researching we saw the Food and Drug Administration doing things we didn't like. So we began going after them in an activist way. We were trying to get earlier access for experimental drugs."



Courtesy Project Inform

Project Inform's Ellen LaPointe

Project Inform's work has helped lead to a swifter HIV medication approval process, development of regulatory changes – including the FDA's accelerated approval regulations – and had a role in designing almost every approved HIV drug study.

Early on, Project Inform held regular town meetings at MCC-SF for 10 years. The organization eventually went nationwide.

"We let people talk about their experiences, talking about when they were very sick. People learned from each other," Delaney said. "I didn't know anything about science and medicine. The truth is, if you were there from the beginning, nobody knew anything. We hadn't learned anything yet. Doctors and scientists were studying it for the first time. We all learned it together and from each other. At UCSF or in Washington, different people were mentoring us.

"It's harder to get support today than in the early years. The gay community gave like your wouldn't believe. The Bush administration doesn't give a damn," he added.

Delaney said that fighting complacency is now one of the organization's new battles.

"People have become complacent because there's sort of a solution, but people are still dying," he said. "The death rate has not gone to zero. Nobody wants to stay on drugs the rest of their life. We don't even know if people are going to live on it for 40 years. The drug companies are the only ones who want that."

"Project Inform made its big priority to find new paradigms, to say, chronic and manageable is not our goal," said LaPointe. "The treatments don't work for everyone. We still don't know the long-term effects [of antiretrovirals]."

"Nobody sets out to design toxic drugs," said Delaney. "I even see people who don't have any toxicity, but still get sick. Just being dependent on handfuls of pills reminds you go that you can't go out on a Friday night anymore."

Advocacy work

In the past two decades Project Inform has worked to advocate access to drugs; to communicate treatment data; facilitate, advocate for and accelerate treatment advances and research toward a cure; encourage sound regulatory policies, legislation, and funding for HIV research; and inspire people to make reasoned choices and take informed action to combat AIDS. Primarily, Project Inform, as its name implies, offers HIV-affected constituents information on optimal treatment strategy and where to access it.

Its free national HIV treatment information hotline averages 1,500 calls per month and hundreds of health information sites link to Project Inform's Web site (www.projectinform.org).

The agency produces and distributes comprehensive consumer newsletters and journals reporting on and analyzing HIV treatment advances, medical studies, and governmental and regulatory issues, and offers vital information for people newly diagnosed or exploring treatment options.

The outreach and education department creates supportive action-oriented coalitions and community education meetings providing an opportunity for HIV-positive people to apprise themselves of the latest treatment advances.

And Project Inform helps AIDS service organizations nationwide establish or strengthen HIV care and treatment education programs with staff trainings, peer education, and curriculum design.

"You cannot work with patients and not think of the impact," said LaPointe. "Tell them what it's like to take medications. They go back to work with clients and help to flag issues themselves."

Project Inform still creates practical, ethical relationships with regulatory agencies and researchers, universities, and pharmaceutical companies to ensure that research meets community needs.

Yet the organization still maintains grassroots efforts for people living with HIV/AIDS. Its 2,000-member advocacy group, the Treatment Action Network, sends e-bulletins or TAN Alerts, encouraging members to contact politicians about the need for adequate HIV program funding.

The latest TAN Alert urges senators to sign on to a letter supporting a minimum of $803.87 million for the AIDS Drug Assistance Program.

Project Inform's public policy arm organizes community support during the federal and state budget processes, protecting Medicaid from cuts and program changes, working to reduce prescription drug costs for ADAP.

"Our public policy efforts in particular have been very successful at the state and federal level, fighting to preserve funding for services for HIV," said LaPointe. "Project Inform worked to end government capping. We had a big role in that. Our work encompasses a whole range, helping to organize rallies to mobilize people to speak up, all things that need to happen." ▼

For more information on the auction, visit www.auction.projectinform.org starting December 1.

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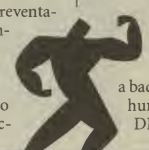
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Vaccines and the immune system

by Aaron J. Cohen

With all this attention focused on the shortage of flu vaccine, I thought it was a good opportunity for me to discuss vaccines in general and to clarify to some degree how the human immune system works. Consider this column to be a refresher course in biology.

A vaccine is a substance that contains components that trigger an immune response. It triggers a response to a particular disease without actually causing the disease. Vaccines are either preventative or therapeutic. Preventative vaccines help trigger an immune response that (ideally) defeats infection by the organism so that the disease never occurs. A therapeutic vaccine is a vaccine designed to enhance or stimulate the immune response for someone who is already suffering from a specific disease.



There are two basic types of immune responses, humoral (antibody) and cell-mediated. A humoral immune response is when the body encounters an invading organism – part of that invading organism, called an antigen, is presented to a special white blood cell, called a B cell, which in turn creates a memory cell capable of producing antibodies that directly attack the invading organism. These antibodies are infection-fighting proteins that tag, neutralize, and help destroy pathogenic (disease causing) organisms.

At the same time certain cells have been matured in the thymus gland and are therefore called T cells. These T cells (also known as CD4 cells) circulate throughout the body and attack cells that have been infected or are considered foreign invaders in the body. This is a cell-mediated response. These invaders may be a virus, a bacterium, or a cancer cell (a human cell with corrupted DNA that is multiplying out of control). These T cells also attack transplanted cells because every one of our cells has a marker, like an ID card, that says it belongs to a particular person's body. This is why people with transplanted organs have to take drugs that reduce the natural immune response in the body. Sometimes T cells, for a variety of reasons, will attack and destroy normal healthy cells in the body. This is called an autoimmune disorder. Juvenile diabetes is an example of an autoimmune disorder that is a result of the body attacking and destroying its own cells that produce insulin.

Now that you know a little about the immune system, I will discuss the various types of vaccines and how they work on the body.

Whole organism

There are two classes of a whole organism vaccine – attenuated (weakened but live) and inactivated (killed). The first vaccine was the use of whole cowpox virus to prevent smallpox. The two diseases are genetically similar but the cowpox virus will make a person mildly ill whereas the smallpox virus can be fatal. However, people infected with cowpox became immune to smallpox. The word vaccination comes from the word vacca, which is Latin for cow.

Attenuated (live)

An attenuated whole organism vaccine uses a live vaccine that has been changed in someway so that it triggers the body to produce antibodies against that organism without actually causing the disease itself. Attenuated vaccines include those for measles, mumps, tuberculosis, and the nasal spray flu vaccine.

Since the microorganism is still living, it stimulates the body to form both a humoral (B cell) and cell-mediated (T cell) response. However, there is a degree of unpredictability and the possibility that the organism might revert to a disease causing form or that even if they are weakened, they may cause a mild illness that can be dangerous to those with weakened immune systems such as those with HIV.

Inactivated (killed)

An inactivated whole organism vaccine uses organisms that are killed and are no longer capable of reproducing. What's important is that the surface proteins are still intact. These will trigger an immune response as if the organism were alive and causing an infection. Inactivated vaccines are generally safe. The pertussis vaccine is a good example of a whole killed virus. Some people cannot take the vaccine because the viruses are raised on egg white protein before being killed and may produce an allergic response in those people who are allergic to eggs. Also, inactivated vaccines do not always induce protective immunity. Multiple boosters are usually necessary in order to generate continual antigen exposure, as the dead organism is incapable of multiplying in the body, and is quickly cleared by the immune system. Furthermore, inactivated vaccines are generally capable of only inducing humoral (T cell) response because the killed organism is unable to enter into our cells. Examples of inactivated vaccines include: vaccines for cholera, pertussis, rabies, and influenza.

Purified (subunit) antigen

Many of the risks involved in using a whole organism for a vaccine can be avoided if only the parts necessary to elicit the proper immune response are used. This precision comes at a cost, however, and there is no guarantee that memory cells will be formed. One method of producing a purified antigen vaccine is to use the coat of the organism alone without any of its RNA or DNA. An example of a subunit antigen vaccine is the one used against influenza type B.

Recombinant antigen

Subunit antigens vaccines are expensive to reproduce. With the development of recombinant DNA techniques in the past few decades, other organisms can be recruited and altered to produce the desired antigens more quickly, efficiently and safely. By altering the DNA of harmless yeasts and bacteria, scientists have developed a way of making them produce the very part of an infectious organism that is necessary to produce the appropriate immune response. The first commercial vaccine of this type, hepatitis B, illustrates the technique. Originally the main component of hepatitis vaccines had to be drawn from individuals who were chronically infected with the disease.

In fact, vaccination for hepatitis A and B is something that I cannot recommend more strongly. These vaccines are a must for everyone, especially gay men who are at higher risk and anyone who drinks alcohol regularly. These vaccines are safe and effective and there is no reason you should leave your liver unprotected. Any doctor or public health clinic will give these vaccines at either low or no cost.

Synthetic peptide

A synthetic peptide is a man-made chain of amino acids that mimics the structure of an antigen. They can be specially designed to promote both a B and T cell response. Think of it as artificial chocolate without the calories. In other words, these particles can create an immune response without the dangers of the real thing. This approach to vaccine development arose in response to rapid DNA cloning and sequencing technology. It has had an impact on three major fronts: bacteria, viruses (including HIV), and parasites.

Recombinant vector

A vector is a non-pathogenic (non-disease causing) organism such as a bacteria or virus. The most promising recombinant vector vaccine up to date has been the vaccinia virus. Both humoral and cell mediated responses can be induced by the vector. Current research investigates the use of vaccinia for immunization against such pathogens as hepatitis B virus, herpes simplex, and influenza virus. It is questionable whether the vaccinia virus is safe for immunocomprimised individuals, such as AIDS patients, so scientists have been investigating attenuated (weakened) vectors as possible vaccines.

DNA

Injection of cloned viral (or bacterial DNA) directly into human cells has been shown to produce a strong immune response. This method has been shown to promote antibodies, CD8+ and CD4+ T cells. DNA vaccines seem to be a safer alternative to immune deficient recipients who may not be able to be immunized with live viral or bacterial vaccines. Of course, when adding foreign DNA to cells one runs the risk of this foreign DNA cross reacting with human DNA, which could cause the body to attack itself. DNA vaccines are currently being developed for both the prevention and treatment of HIV.

A note to readers

In writing this regular health column for the *B.A.R.*, it is my intention to provide the community with useful, understandable information that promotes good health and well-being. I would appreciate hearing from the public about what subjects you might want to read about. Please send any suggestions to me at: HealthUpdate@comcast.net

This column is not intended to treat or diagnose any conditions. It is meant solely to provide information on topics of interest to the public. Please address any questions you might have regarding your own condition(s) or treatment(s) to your physician or other health care practitioner. ▼

Aaron J. Cohen holds a master's degree in public health in community health education and is a certified health education specialist. Previous columns can be viewed in their entirety on the Web at www.healthupdate.blogspot.com

Online resources

International AIDS Vaccine Initiative: www.iava.org

Allied Vaccine Group: www.vaccine.org

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: www.CDC.gov

Clinical trials listings: www.centerwatch.com

Vaccine information: www.vaccineinformation.org



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Pelosi secures AIDS funds for SF

by Matthew S. Bajko

Exercising her muscle as House minority leader, Representative Nancy Pelosi (D-San Francisco) secured $1.5 million for the San Francisco Department of Public Health to enhance HIV/AIDS care and related services in the fiscal year 2005 omnibus spending bill passed last week by the House of Representatives.

The funds will provide treatments for people living with HIV/AIDS; outpatient care at facilities such as Ward 86 at San Francisco General Hospital, the Castro-Mission and Southeast Health Centers; and HIV care and prevention services including outreach, counseling and testing, linkage to care, and support.

"This funding is critical to providing essential services to people living with HIV/AIDS or at risk of HIV infection, especially for women and people of color," Pelosi said in a statement announcing the funds Monday, November 22.

The money comes as Mayor Gavin Newsom and the Board of Supervisors grapple with cutting $15.5 million in the health department's budget to help deal with a $97 million mid-year budget deficit after voters defeated several tax hikes at the polls this month. Nearly $3 million in AIDS funding is slated to be cut.

"Once again this is an example of the type of outstanding leadership Congresswoman Pelosi has provided on HIV/AIDS issues from the day she became a member of Congress. Obviously these are much needed dollars in these difficult times for our city," said District 8 Supervisor Bevan Dufty, who has been meeting with health officials to discuss ways to prevent the HIV service cuts.

Pelosi also worked with Congressman David Obey (Wisconsin), the senior Democrat on the House Appropriations Committee, to include a provision that directs the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to revise the process that has resulted in drastic cuts and major fluctuations in the Ryan White CARE Act funding for San Francisco and other major metropolitan areas.

These metropolitan areas rely on this funding to provide health services to people living with HIV/AIDS. Last spring San Francisco suffered a $4 million reduction in CARE funding and was forced to slash funding to numerous agencies. Due to previous language in the CARE Act, San Francisco automatically faced $700,000 less in its CARE funding next year, and health officials have been bracing for another multimillion dollar cut.

"This provision will protect vital health services for people living with HIV/AIDS in the San Francisco Bay Area and across the country," Pelosi said. "The fight is not over – we must continue working to increase funding for Ryan White HIV/AIDS services." ▼

Shepard

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tempted robbery. And it is the opinion of many of those interviewed, despite McKinney's denial, that McKinney had engaged in sexual relations with other men, and that he and Shepard already knew each other by the night of the brutal murder. In short, a known gay guy touched a closeted man in front of another straight male, setting off a rage.

> ***"What proof did they have that this was, in fact, a hate crime?"***

Still, according to ABC, the addition of drugs and Shepard's possible suicidal tendencies seem to negate the possibility of a hate crime. The show goes out of its way to shed light on Shepard's own reported methamphetamine abuse, possible HIV-positive status, and downward spiral that by implication may have led him to make poor choices on the night in question.

ABC's Schneider declined to further discuss the episode on the record, including why Shepard's HIV status was part of the story.

But the damage to be done by the *20/20* episode – which, at press time, was still subject to edits before broadcast – does not come from the so-called shocking new evidence that Shepard was reportedly a typical college student who did drugs and had sex. It comes from the show's shocking lack of analysis around the complex nature of most hate crimes, and its intention, from the very beginning, to dismiss those who were quick to hold Shepard up as the "symbol of the oppression of the gay community."

"What proof did they have that this was, in fact, a hate crime?" an incredulous anchor Elizabeth Vargas asks residents of Laramie, most of whom respond with a resounding, "none," before citing McKinney's drug-induced anger and apparently shameful bisexual past. The show goes on to tell McKinney's story, which is corroborated by Henderson. It is the pair's first interview with the press.

According to both men, McKinney, a user and dealer of methamphetamine, set out on that tragic night specifically to rob someone. It was by chance, they said, that they ran into Shepard at Laramie's Fireside Lounge. Shepard eventually asked McKinney for a ride home and also reportedly offered the men sex in exchange for drugs. Immediately, said McKinney, he noticed Shepard's nice clothes and his wallet full of money, and the three men drove away with McKinney planning to pull a gun on Shepard and take his money. With Henderson

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GOP

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to support our bills," said Lynd.

The new lobbyist is also an extension of the more politically active national Log Cabin Republicans, which has awakened under the leadership of Executive Director Patrick Guerriero to become a force within the Republican Party. During this past presidential election, the gay GOP group vociferously attacked its own party's antigay platform, withheld its endorsement of President Bush due to his support of a Federal Marriage Amendment, and ran advertisements in key swing states pointing out Vice President Dick Cheney's stance that the issue should be left up to the states.

Their efforts didn't make much of a dent in the gay vote for Bush on November 2. As he did in 2000 running against Al Gore, Bush again picked up 1 million votes from LGBT people this year. Undaunted, Guerriero said after the election that his organization would immediately seek not only to build bridges between the Bush White House and gays, but also Bush's backers.

"Whether we like it or not, the gay community has a lot of work to do," Guerriero told reporters. "It has not changed the hearts and minds of Americans in the South and in other key states."

The polarization of the national electorate can be found in California as well, despite the state going for Democratic presidential nominee Senator John Kerry and making Democratic Senator Barbara Boxer the third highest votegetter in the nation. Cross over the hills and mountains dividing the coastal areas from inland communities and you enter Bush country.

Central Valley lawmakers skew heavily toward the Republican camp and GOP state lawmakers have dismal records on issues of concern to the gay community. For that reason, gay Democrats and lobbyists said they welcome having a gay Republican voice in Sacramento.

"I am really pleased, sincerely pleased, to know that there will be a more formal LGBT Republican voice in Sacramento. It's really been a missing piece and I wish them great success in their efforts, which of course are the same as our efforts in the civil rights battle," said Assemblyman Mark Leno (D-San Francisco), who is stepping down as chair of the state legislature's LGBT Caucus at the end of December.

State Senator Sheila Kuehl (D-Santa Monica) will assume the chairmanship in January.

Leno, who will be pushing a marriage equality bill in the next session, added that the timing of Log Cabin's decision "is just right."

Boyce Hinman, a Sacramento-based lobbyist for the nonpartisan Lambda Letters Project, an LGBT advocacy group, also welcomed news of being joined by a Republican colleague.

"I guess I think it could only be good if it can help influence Republicans to support the needs of the LGBTI community," said Hinman. ▼

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Jack L. Clark (aka Silver Fox)

Born October 4, 1934. Passed away on October 8, 2004 at the Fort Miley Veterans Administration Hospital after a long illness

A Mix and Mingle Celebration of Life will be held at the Long Star Saloon (back patio), 1354 Harrison St., San Francisco on Saturday. December 4, 2004 from 1-3 p.m. All who knew him are cordially invited to attend.

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Jim and his life partner, Cade Morrow, enjoyed the solitude and peace during the past few years at their property near Yosemite.

Jim died at their Oakland home on November 5. In addition to Cade, he leaves behind many close friends, his mother and two brothers, and many dear relatives.

A Celebration of Life will be held on December 4. Donations in Jim's memory can be made to the East Bay SPCA-Oakland or the Human Rights Foundation. Call Dennis at 415-641-9355 for details.

Jack L. Clark (Aka Silver Fox) Born October 4, 1934



Passed away October 8, 2004 at Fort Miley Veterans Administration Hospital after a long illness

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Talking the talk

by Jim Provenzano

Competing factions of sports events in 2006 may be meeting again, and a gay sports conference will continue to play a role in settling differences between the groups.

Both the Federation of Gay Games, which licensed the Chicago Games VII, and the Gay and Lesbian International Sport Association, the newly formed governing body associated with OutGames I, announced different plans for conferences to discuss schedule conflicts and ensuing competition for tourist dollars.

At its annual meeting, held November 7-12 in Cologne, Germany, The FGG board voted 30-1-1 to "organize and publicize a conference that is open to all interested parties, held in a city as centrally located as possible, and conducted by an independent facilitator."

The conference will be organized in response to letters received by the FGG during the last several weeks calling for discussion about unifying the worldwide LGBT sports movement in the wake of two competing large-scale events in 2006.

Montreal's OutGames I, to be held two weeks after Chicago's Gay Games VII in 2006, had members of GLISA advocating a conference to "reconcile" differences between the groups. In October, GLISA proposed that such meetings take place in Berlin or Munich.

But FGG representatives decided to wait until their later annual meeting in Cologne two weeks ago to vote on the issue. "We did the right thing to wait until the entire board of directors had the opportunity to meet in person and discuss these matters at our annual meeting," said Roberto Mantaci, FGG co-president.

At an open forum in Cologne, federation officials "gathered the widest consensus from the board," Mantaci said, before putting it to a vote.

Such news should have pleased representatives of GLISA, whose pleas for recognition had previously gone unanswered.

"There is no reason why GLISA and the FGG cannot co-exist constructively for the benefit of the LGBT movement," said Catherine Meade, co-president of GLISA, in a statement that followed the FGG announcement. "The measure of trust for an organization is based on the track record it produces."

However, with no sports event having been produced by GLISA, it's still left in the position of defending itself as more than a rival for the FGG and Chicago's Games. GLISA representatives have not agreed to join the talks that FGG proposed.

The main conflict is about the summer 2006 schedule. Although no changes are planned for the dates of the two rival events, GLISA announced its intention to avoid such future conflicts. FGG bids, meanwhile, will soon be accepted for Gay Games VIII, scheduled for 2010.

Critics of GLISA/OutGames see its demands for talks as legitimizing an unproven sports event and governing body put together just six months ago.

With claims of over 1,700 registered participants for OutGames, and several business and sports group sponsorships, it would seem that GLISA should be satisfied with its progress.

But that hasn't stopped its representatives from declaring an end to what it calls "posturing, political games, and name-calling" which "do nothing to enhance the growth of the global sporting community. In the end it simply causes confusion, anger, and feelings of betrayal."

Yet, communications are even less civil on the now-sprawling nearly 40-page discussion board on the Web site www.Outsports.com about "schism" between Chicago and Montreal's Games. Between formal statements from all parties are many vindictive accusations and strangely sarcastic replies from both sides of the debate.

While some support Montreal's goals, others have yet to forget the flippancy of previous statements accusing the Chicago Games of "failing" and having "no money" (neither proved true). They see Montreal's demands and accusations as an attempt to legitimize an unproven record.

"The real question is how can GLISA claim any legitimacy whatsoever, when its board members are all self-appointed?" asked HulaBoy in a recent post.

Shamey Cramer, a FGG delegate and Los Angeles water polo player, wrote that, "The continued state of 'one upmanship' is turning off the rank-and-file athletes to the point of numbed indifference that I've never seen in the 22 years since the founding of the Gay Games. It's time each faction take responsibility for its share of the mess."

Thomas Kevin Dolan, GLISA's co-president, stated in a press release that his group's "incredible efforts should not be seen or interpreted as something that will be damaging to the unity of the LGBT sporting community."

But in the Outsports.com discussion comparing costs for participants at either event, Dolan accused Chicago Games Inc.'s Kevin Boyer of "putting out misleading info" and has made more of the very same sort of "name-calling" his group condemned.

Chicago Games' Boyer offered a response on the discussion forum: "We're used to the personal attacks by now and we're learning to consider the source. Continued claims about "accuracy and fairness" reminds me of Fox News' slogan – 'fair and balanced.'"

GLISA's latest statement over the proposed "reconciliation talks" even took more potshots at the FGG while claiming to put an end to such critiques, and hedging about participating in the FGG-proposed talks.

"We are saddened that the FGG rejected the reconciliation efforts of neutral parties in favor of holding its own meeting on the current situation of the LGBT sporting world," said Mark Tewksbury, a GLISA board member and Canadian Olympic medalist. "We are fully prepared to sit at the table with the FGG to map out a plan for our peaceful co-existence. However, it's hard to remain optimistic in the face of such short-sightedness."

But even those GLISA statements are suspect, in that GLISA's Dolan had previously posted several comments about the rift that later mirrored comments quoted as being from OutGames officials in a later announcement.

GLAF as neutral territory

One event where FGG and GLISA representatives have tried to have civil in-person discourse is at the past two annual Gay & Lesbian Athletics Foundation conferences, held in Boston in 2002 and 2003.

At the third annual GLAF conference set for March 2005 in Washington, D.C., nearly all leaders in the global GLBT sports community will have an opportunity to speak their minds and reach an accord on many issues of concern. The prospect of FGG and GLISA forming another conference to settle their scores is seen by many as progress.

Organizers of GLAF were asked to participate in the Human Rights conference in Montreal in 2006 (sponsored by GLISA), but also will collaborate with Chicago to support their efforts to develop a related conference affiliated with Chicago's Gay Games VII.

GLAF's Jeffrey Weekley, director of content for the 2005 International Gay & Lesbian Athletics conference, hopes the GLAF conferences will continue to serve as a sort of neutral territory for discussion.

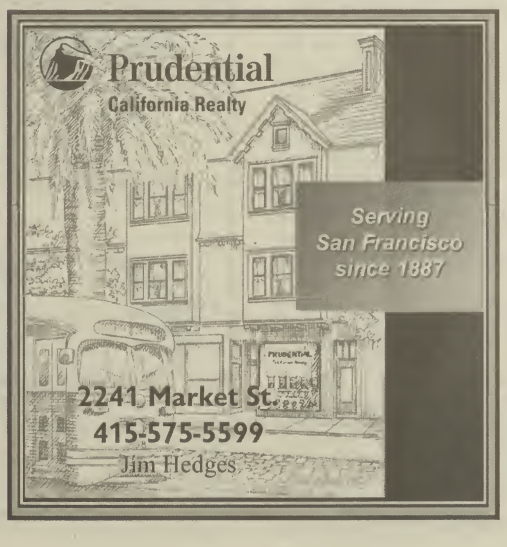
Weekley says that the rift between FGG/Chicago and GLISA/Montreal "certainly has made our role as a moderating force more important. I understand that people won't always agree, but at least at the GLAF events, everyone has been quite civil. I'm proud that we offered a forum for the discussion in a polite way. I think we will continue to be a moderating force, and we'd like to be part of the solution for the future." ▼

Read more sports columns at www.sportscomplex.org.

Links

www.gaygameschicago.com
www.montreal2006.com
www.glaf.org
www.glisa.org





Bono

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community of Union City.

As for when the different families spend time together, discussions can get heated. Her stance on gay rights has been prodded at times, she said.

"We've been so busy fighting over Kerry or Bush, I welcome something as subtle as this discussion" on marriage rights, Bono said. "It is never easy having Republicans and Democrats at the same table. There are some things you can't win, so why ruin a dinner over divergent issues. You have to look at the bigger picture."

One such time came during Sonny's funeral, when Bono and her parents accompanied Chastity in the limousine. Driving up to the church, virulent antigay protester Fred Phelps and his followers lined the street holding signs denouncing homosexuals.

"Those signs were just terrible to Chastity. The person who comforted her the most was my father. My good Republican dad was the one telling Chas how to deal with that sort of terrible antagonism," recalled Bono.

At the opposite end of the spectrum, Bono recalled how hard of a time Cher, a gay icon and friends with many LGBT people, had at first accepting that her daughter was a lesbian.

"With Chastity I saw the adversity in the family. Cher took a little while to accept it," she said, adding that now neither family has any issues with anyone's sexuality, and welcomes partners into the fold.

"I know many families are different than mine and have to wrestle with these issues. But my families have been wonderful," said Bono. "My two children have been around Chastity and her partner since they were quite young."

Perhaps it is her closeness and acceptance of her gay family members that draws support from LGBT voters in her district. While she represents conservative, rural areas, she also is the voice in Congress for Palm Springs, a city that has an openly gay man as mayor and a gay majority on its city council. The local Stonewall Democrat chapter president praised Bono in a letter to the local paper after she voted against the FMA.

"They do appreciate the fact that I am my own person. This past election I had many traditionally Democrats, gays and lesbians, say to me 'I voted for you, you're the only Republican I ever voted for.' It took a lot for them to do it, and I really appreciated it," said Bono. ▼

The awards dinner will take place at 6:30 p.m. Saturday, December 4 at the Pan Pacific Hotel, 500 Post Street. Tickets cost $100 per person. For tickets call Joel Springer III at (415) 503-1877.

AIDS day

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formances, including songwriter Genevieve Goings of the group, Legato.

Goings has embarked on a songwriting effort with Joe Wilson, founder of Artists Against AIDS, to promote AIDS awareness and has contributed to about 40 albums.

"It's time to put HIV/AIDS awareness back in the spotlight," said a statement from Artists Against AIDS. "We need to work together and get the community involved and make a sound that will hopefully reinvigorate the urgency that needs to return to HIV/AIDS education, prevention and funding."

Call (415) 240-7401 to participate.

Every penny counts

The AIDS Emergency Fund holds its 10th annual Every Penny Counts Day coin collection event at 10 a.m. at Embarcadero Center's Justin Herman Plaza.

Children from area schools will receive free hot chocolate (donated by Starbucks) and discounts on ice-skating, while radio station Wild 94.9 FM will distribute free "shwag."

Jes Muse, AEF's penny jar coordinator, noted that the penny jars in many businesses are frequently emptied. The World AIDS Day event is primarily geared toward school children who have collected donations for AEF.

And those donations add up. The Castro Walgreens calls Muse to come empty its jar twice per month while Spike's Cafe on 19th Street gets its jar emptied once per month. Spike's has raised $60,000 over the years, said Muse.

Last year's event raised $118,000.

"Kids and businesses are just amazing," said Muse. "Schools in poor neighborhoods say 'keep a look out for pennies on the ground.' Kids are closer to the ground."

The junior and senior classes at Oakland's Head-Royce School compete through bake sales and car washes to raise money for AEF, contributing about $10,000 every year, according to Muse.

AEF has helped people to meet emergency financial needs for 20 years. It distributes $2 million annually to 3,000 people fighting AIDS or breast cancer. To participate next week, call Muse at (415) 558-6990.

Marin vigil

Marin County, which has the state's third highest AIDS case rate per capita, will hold a candlelight vigil and procession beginning at San Rafael's Pickleweed Community Center at 50 Canal Street, at 5:30 p.m., and proceeds to the Canal Community Alliance at 91 Larkspur Street.

After a brief presentation at the alliance, participants will construct a "Remembrance Altar" that will be on display at the alliance through December 6. Participants are encouraged to bring a candle and something to place on the altar. Speakers include Sonia Balbontin, highlighting the effect of HIV on Marin County women.

The observance is sponsored by a coalition of community organizations headed by the Marin AIDS Project and the Canal Community Alliance.

Also, from noon to 2 p.m. at the Corte Madera Inn, 56 Madera Boulevard, Dr. William Rankin presents "Facing Down Death: Grassroots Efforts to Prevent and Treat HIV/AIDS in Malawi." People must RSVP to Catherine Condon at (415) 499-4218. ▼

Shepard

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at the wheel, Shepard put his hand on McKinney's leg, and it was then that McKinney "hit him with the pistol – I was getting ready to pull it on him anyways."

McKinney said Shepard was cooperative in the robbery, but the drugs by that point had taken over, and his violence was out of control. McKinney even went on to attack others that night, including Henderson.

This is among the evidence that ABC offers as proof that Shepard's sexuality was not the motive for the attack. Other examples include interviews with McKinney's girlfriend Price, who admits that she and McKinney lied to the media and to police about McKinney's gay panic reaction to Shepard. The show does not examine why McKinney believed that gay people were so devalued that his panic defense was a better excuse than robbery. It does not address why sources who have admitted their history of lying are now considered credible. And it does not address the fact that drugs, unwanted sexual advances, and a history of violence toward others are often a part of hate crime scenarios.

"Where acts of extreme violence occur, drugs and alcohol are almost always involved," said Tina D'Elia, a hate crime violence survivor advocate at San Francisco's Community United Against Violence. Part of D'Elia's job is to constantly confront the over-simplified myths that hate crimes are simple situations devoid of any other factors.

Although the Shepard case was not tried as a hate crime – there are no such laws in Wyoming – by legal definition, a victim's sexuality does not need to be the sole reason for an attack to be considered a hate crime.

And this is where the LGBT community fears that the *20/20* show will fall flat.

"Robbery and drugs were always a part of the narrative of this story," said Joan Garry, executive director of the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation. "To suggest that antigay bias had nothing to do with Matthew Shepard's death is ludicrous."

Joel Springer of the local Gay Men's Community Initiative also voiced his concerns on the group's Internet chat room earlier this week.

"I think the ABC News story will be prone to creating revisionist history about Matthew Shepard that will play into the hands, however unintentionally, of those who hate us for who we are," said Springer, who like most members of the community has not yet seen the show but has seen the sensationalized promotions. "Regardless of the motives of these criminals, a gay man was stomped and left to die. That is the fundamental fact of this story. 'Muggings gone wrong' do not include being tied to a fence. A defense of 'gay panic' cannot be logically changed to suit the present mode of these guys."

For GLAAD's Garry, ABC's attempt to muddy the waters is questionable, particularly, she said, since "no one has ever said this was a simple murder" and a variety of credible sources were not interviewed for the segment.

Garry said those interested should visit www.glaad.org or www.matthewshepard.org for a viewer's guide to the *20/20* episode.

"This piece should not be allowed to have any impact on the legacy of Matthew Shepard and the spotlight he put on the bias our community faces each and every day," said Garry. "It's simply not a credible piece of journalism." ▼

LEGAL NOTICES

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To talk to the buyer in Office of Contract Administration, Purchasing who handles your product or service, visit www.sfgov.org/oca/purchasing view Information for Vendors and Contractors and then click on "List of Buyers and How to Contact Them."

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You can download some bid packages from the database. In the "Equipment, Supplies and General Services" section (managed by Contract Administration), almost all 5-digit bids have the complete packages attached. In the "Consultants and Professional Services" section, some items have the complete Request-for-Proposal packages attached. If you download a bid package, be sure to check the database from time to time for change notices, or call the department and ask to be put on its mailing list. For all other bids, you need to contact the department managing the bid to request the bid package. For more information about the bid database, call (415) 554-6248.

If you've never done business with the City before, a package of information can be sent to you. There are forms to fill out, and your company needs to be established in Office of Contract Administration, Purchasing Division's vendor file. For more information, call (415) 554-6743.

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NOV 4, 11,18,25, 2004

STATEMENT FILE A-0280322-00
The following person(s) are doing business as: Delirium Cocktails, 3139 16th Street San Francisco, Ca. 94103. This business is conducted by a corporation, signed Tom W. Basso. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 6/30/04. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 11/07/04.
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NOV. 11,18,25, DEC. 2, 2004

STATEMENT FILE A-0280400-00
The following person(s) are doing business as: Spencer and Company, 491 Castro Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94114. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Dennis E. Spencer. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 11/01/04. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 11/01/04.
NOV. 11,18,25, DEC. 2, 2004

STATEMENT FILE A-0280498-00
The following person(s) are doing business as: emma & tbkongsai, 150 10th Ave. San Francisco, Ca. 94118. This business is conducted by a husband and wife, signed Tim B. Kong. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 11/04/04. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 11/04/04.
NOV. 11,18,25, DEC. 2, 2004

STATEMENT FILE A-0280513-00
The following person(s) are doing business as: Eureka Gallery, 4448 18th Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94114. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Raymond Hanssen. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on NA. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 11/04/04.
NOV. 11,18,25, DEC. 2, 2004

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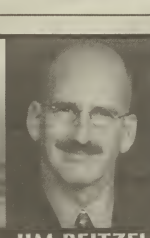
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LEGAL NOTICES

STATEMENT FILE A-0280737-00
The following person(s) are doing business as: 1.California Choppers, 2. Frisco Customs, 3. U.S.A. Choppers, 4.Choppers U.S.A.,1490 Howard Street San Francisco, Ca. 94103. This business is conducted by a general partnership, signed Ronald Aiello. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 1/26/99. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 11/15/04.
NOV. 18,25, DEC. 2,8, 2004

STATEMENT FILE A-0280749-00
The following person(s) are doing business as: 818 Hardwood Floor, 755 Prague Street San Francisco, Ca. 94122. This business is conducted by a general partnership, signed Quoc Phung. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 11/15/04. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 11/15/04.
NOV. 18,25, DEC. 2,8, 2004

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE # CNC 04541566
In the matter of the application of Jennifer Karen Roolf for change of name. The application of Jennifer Karen Roolf for change of name having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Jennifer Karen Roolf has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Jennifer Katherine Roolf. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in December, 2004 at 9:00 am of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.
NOV. 18,25, DEC. 2,8, 2004

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME: #278402
The following person(s) have abandoned the use of the fictitious business name known as 818 Hardwood Floor located at 755 Prague Street, San Francisco, CA 94112. This business was conducted by an individual signed Quoc Phung. the fictitious name was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca on 8/11/04
NOV. 18,25, DEC. 2,8, 2004

STATEMENT FILE A-0280145-00
The following person(s) are doing business as: Out of The Closet Thrift Store, 2415 Mission Street San Francisco, Ca. 94110. This business is conducted by a corporation, signed Michael Weinstein. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 10/1/89. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 10/21/04.
NOV. 18,25, DEC. 2,8, 2004

STATEMENT FILE A-0280612-00
The following person(s) are doing business as: San Francisco Jewish Theater, 250 King, #1616, Street San Francisco, Ca. 94107. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Daniel Howard. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on NA. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 11/09/04.
NOV. 18,25, DEC. 2,8, 2004

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE # CNC 04541423
In the matter of the application of Jose Issac Sandoval for change of name. The application of Jose Issac Sandoval for change of name having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Jose Issac Sandoval has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Issac Sandoval. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in December, 2004 at 9:00 am of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.
NOV. 18,25, DEC. 2,8, 2004

STATEMENT FILE A-0280599-00
The following person(s) are doing business as: Andrew Smith Consulting, 4150 17th Street, #9, San Francisco, Ca. 94114. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Andrew Smith. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 11/01/04. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 11/08/04.
NOV. 18,25, DEC. 2,8, 2004

STATEMENT FILE A-0280196-00
The following person(s) are doing business as: Viking Giant Sub 2906 Diamond Street San Francisco, Ca. 94131. This business is conducted by an individual, signed John Ahau Lan. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 11/22/04. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 11/22/04.
NOV. 25, DEC. 2,8,16 2004

STATEMENT FILE A-0280795-00
The following person(s) are doing business as: GLBTHS, GLBT Historical Society, 657 Mission Street #300 San Francisco, Ca. 94105. This business is conducted by a corporation, signed Jacob Richards. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 09/2002. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 11/16/04.
NOV. 25, DEC. 2,8,16 2004

STATEMENT FILE A-0280795-00
The following person(s) are doing business as: GLBTHS, GLBT Historical Society, 657 Mission Street #300 San Francisco, Ca. 94105. This business is conducted by a corporation, signed Jacob Richards. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 09/2002. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 11/16/04.
NOV. 25, DEC. 2,8,16 2004

NOTICE OF APPLICATION TO SELL ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES
To whom it may concern: The Name of the Applicant(s) is/are: George Tanios Boudames. The applicants listed above are applying to the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control at 185 Berry Street, Suite #5600 San Francisco, Ca 94107, to sell alcoholic beverages at: 1777 Steiner Street, San Francisco, Ca 94115. Type of License applied for:
41 - ON SALE BEER AND WINE-EATING PLACE
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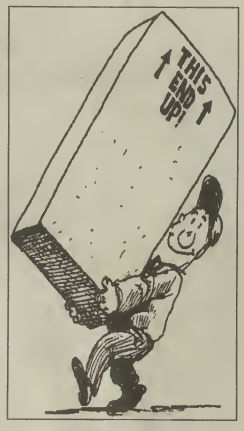
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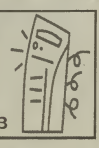
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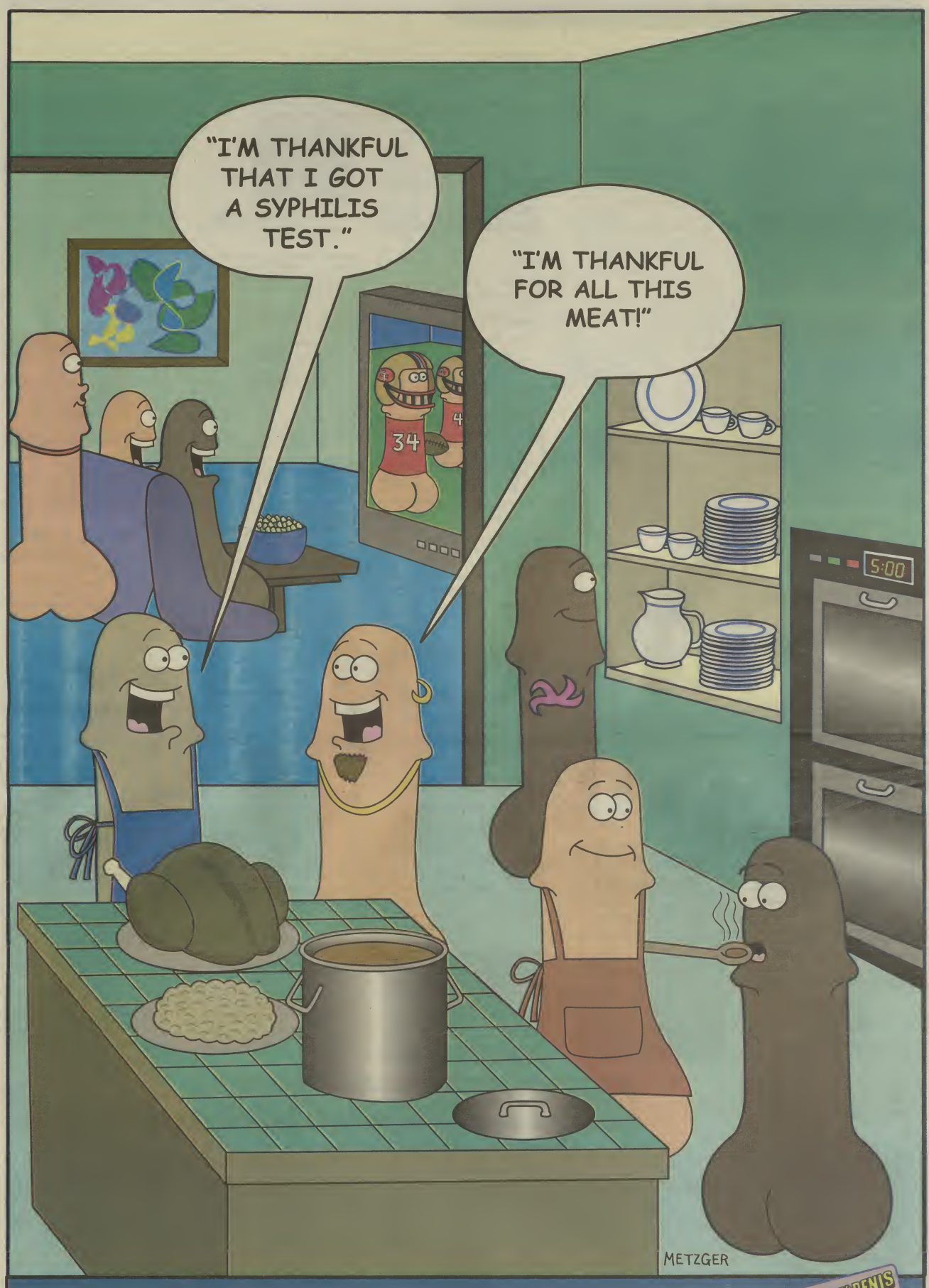
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IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE # CNC 04541617
In the matter of the application of 1.Cindy Fan, 2.Kevin Fan, 3.Elvina Fan for change of name. The application of 1.Cindy Fan, 2.Kevin Fan, 3.Elvina Fan for change of name having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that 1.Cindy Fan, 2.Kevin Fan, 3.Elvina Fan have filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to1.Cindy Fan to Angela Cindy Fan,2.Kevin Fan to Bill Kevin Fan, 3.Elvina Fan to Diana Elvina Fan. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 30th day of December, 2004 at 9:00 am of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.
NOV. 11,18,25, DEC. 2, 2004



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Gere on Goode, Hennessy, and dance
'How To Make Dances in an Epidemic: Tracking Choreography in the Age of AIDS.'
page 35

Viva Maria Callas
Franco Zeffirelli's lush take on 'Callas Forever.'
page 40



Oy vey, it's Xmastime
Alternative holiday shows surveyed in 'Backstage.'
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BAY AREA REPORTER

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Vol. 34 • No. 48 • 25 November 2004



Catherine Ashmore

New adventures in *Nutcracker!*

Choreographer Matthew Bourne tells dance like it is

by Stephanie von Buchau

A couple of years ago, I was in LA attending a performance of Matthew Bourne's *Swan Lake*. That's the startling, altogether wonderful revisionist version of the Tchaikovsky classic that suggests the Prince's desire for the Swan Queen is really a mad pash for a Swan King, since the entire corps of swans (and their dishy, leather-clad leader) are male.

I'd flown down to review the show for the *BAR* and was mightily annoyed on arriving to discover that the star dancer I'd been promised in the ambiguous role of the head swan was in this performance being replaced by someone I'd never heard of. While my companion and I grumped loudly, a soft-spoken Brit sitting next to us commented, "Don't worry. This fellow is young, but he's really very good." Yes, indeedy. The young man's name was Will Kemp, and he later became the #1 dancer in Bourne's Adventures in Moving Pictures company, now retitled New Adventures.

The Brit, of course, was Bourne, and it's a good thing I didn't introduce my grumpy self, or he might not have been so friendly and forthcoming in the interview I just did with him on his latest creation, *Nutcracker!*, which receives its US premiere at UC Berkeley's Zellerbach Hall, from Nov. 26-Dec. 5. As it was, Bourne is charming, expansive and good-humored about answering questions — something most choreographers hate.

I started by asking, why the exclamation point in the title?

Bourne: "I thought the exclamation point was fun and a way of distinguishing it from the many other *Nutcracker*s around. It's also a larger-than-life interpretation, full of bold statements."

This *Nutcracker* began 12 years ago as a commission for the Edinburgh Festival during the centenary celebrations of Tchaikovsky's two-act ballet. Even though it is not danced *on pointe* and all the choreography is original, the piece was so well-received that Bourne revived it at London's Sadler's Wells Theatre in 1993 and '94. It was then restaged with new decor in 2002, when it was called "luxuriant, witty and a brilliant family show" by the London press.

It was the reinventing of *Nutcracker* that started Bourne on his alternative, often incendiary readings of the classics: *Swan Lake, Cinderella* and *The Car Man*, which played in Berkeley in '01. How had the intervening years altered his original *Nutcracker* scenario?

Bourne said, "I feel that I've learned so much about storytelling without words in the last 12 years. This original production was my first attempt at a full-length classic, so inevitably things have gotten richer, more dramatic logic has been applied, the characters have more depth. However, the piece retains its simplicity and innocence. I haven't drowned it in *Swan Lake*-like psychological complexity. It's a fun piece with a big heart."

Score friendly

Bourne's *Nutcracker* is also a piece that works its changes without harming the glorious score.

"Ten years on, I find Tchaikovsky's music more and

page **40** ▶

The struggle documented

Films about HIV/AIDS out on DVD by David Nahmod

It's My Party (MGM, '96)

This major-studio release featured an all-star cast and got wonderful reviews. Why it had such a limited release remains a mystery. Director Randal Kleiser (*Grease, The Blue Lagoon*), one of the first Hollywood directors to come out, tells a simple, moving tale of Nick Stark (Eric Roberts), who has been given a death sentence by his doctor. Nick's AIDS-related brain lesions will kill him in about 10 days. The last few days will see him blind, paralyzed, and racked with seizures. Only a day or so before these symptoms are due to appear, Nick throws himself a lavish farewell party.

The film shows the last day of Nick's life. In an eerie, casual dinner-party setting, family and friends come to say goodbye. There are many moving moments, as the father who wasn't there (George Segal) and the lover who abandoned him (Gregory Harrison) try to make amends while they still can. Lee Grant, as Nick's mother, puts on a brave front but is obviously barely holding herself together. Margaret Cho (the gay community's best friend), Olivia Newton John, Roddy McDowall and Bronson Pinchot all appear as friends of Nick's. One of the film's finest moments comes when Nick's newly out teenage nephew must say goodbye to the only relative he can openly confide in.

The finale is a heartbreaker. The party's over, and Nick's vision is starting to fade. It's time for him to go. He smiles and waves goodbye, as Mom finally loses it.

It's My Party is strong stuff. Beautifully written and acted, it's a heartfelt testament to the love of family and friends. AIDS may separate us from each other, but the love goes on.

The film is also a powerful statement on the need to let the

page **36** ▶



Thanksgiving turkeys on parade

Plenty of poultry, please pass the stuffing

by Roberto Friedman

Even in such awful, imperialred times, there's still plenty to give thanks for as the annual L-Tryptophan-laden holiday approaches. Wild meat isn't the title of a porno, it's the portion on our plates. Lord knows, Out There is ever thankful for the never-ending procession of total turkeys who squat and gobble their poultry hearts out. Otherwise, what would we get righteously indignant about? A drumroll (and a drumstick), please!

• Reactionary social-issues groups are so busy protesting the release of **Bill Condon**'s *Kinsey* biopic, reviewed in last week's issue, who's left to make the stuffing? Focus on the Family minion **Tom Neven** wrote, "To say that *Kinsey* is rank propaganda for the sexual revolution and the homosexual agenda would be beyond stating the obvious." FOTF blames **Alfred Kinsey** for bringing sex education to public schools. Oh, the horrors!



'When we won the election, it really grew... to like this long.'

Listen to pathologically right-wing **Robert Knight**, director of Concerned Women of America's Culture & Family Institute. He actually told the press, "Instead of being lionized, Kinsey's proper place is with Nazi **Dr. Josef Mengele**." Terrible turkey, your role model is showing.

• The Milwaukee *Journal Sentinel* usually invites readers to buy photos taken by their staff photographers, but it won't sell **Dale Gulden**'s photo of evil overlord **Dick Cheney** which appeared in its Sept. 11 edition. Why not? Apparently, Dick's pants were a tad snug, showing yet another Bushian bulge. But that's one of those theres we don't wanna go.



The omnibus anthology every gay man should avoid.

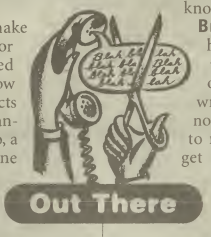
• Something's not only turkey, it's downright fishy: Found in the new omnibus anthology *Mondohomo*, self-described as "your essential guide to queer pop culture" (Alyson), a list titled "Painters Art Fags Adore," including the immortal "**Keith Herring**!"

• Things that make us go *hmm:* The ad for the new animated Comedy Central show *Drawn Together* depicts a big lesbian kiss transpiring in the hottub, a **Betty Boop** Gone Wild flashing her breasts, and a **Prince Charming** getting aroused by the pics in *Dude'z Health* magazine. What is the cartoon world coming to?

• Not that we think anyone should bail ship at the Castro Theatre, but we'd have to say there was turkeyhood involved in the letting go of programmer **Anita Monga**, whose stewardship of the Castro calendar was world-class. We're withholding judgment on the new programming until we see forthcoming calendars, but have to say the reported withdrawal of *The Parrots of Telegraph Hill* hurts. OT is wild about those birds, and we don't mean for roasting.



She's got her mayonnaise mama on her lickin' hole in *Drawn Together*.



• But it made the headlines so easy: Former executive editor of **John Kennedy, Jr.**'s *George* magazine **Richard Blow** is having his name legally changed, reports the NY *Post*. Blow will be known by **Richard Bradley** by the time his new book, *Harvard Rules,* comes out next spring. "I'm writing books full time now, and it's important to me that people not get distracted by a name," said Blow.

• Just call us **Tom the Turk:** In last week's column, we clumsily misstated the title of SFer **August Kleinzahler**'s new book, *Cutty, One Rock - Low Characters and Strange Places Gently Explained*. Loved the book, and got the title wrong. Honestly, OT is so stoopid sometimes we could just blush. If only turkeys showed shame.

• Organically grown, free-range and steroid-free, but still truly turkeys: Uppity-ups who blame busty celeb **Anna Nicole**

next page ▶



Fur-free blondes? At first, she thought that she'd have to shave down there, but then she remembered, it's *not* blonde down there: Anna Nicole.

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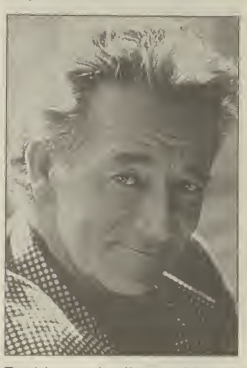
For St. Pete's sake

SF hosts St. Petersburg Philharmonic

by Philip Campbell

When Rudyard Kipling said, "East is East and West is West" some 114 years ago, the St. Petersburg Philharmonic was already eight years old. Little did he know then how the globe would shrink as the century passed.

Artists in the West have since absorbed the Russian musical tradition to a degree where differences are far less obvious. Still, if the sound of the world's great orchestras has become more uniform over the years, the venerable St. Petersburg, at least, has retained its own distinctive personality.



Temirkanov: dazzling precision.

The proof was on display at Davies Hall last week. Three concerts folded into the regular San Francisco Symphony subscription season allowed conductor Yuri Temirkanov an opportunity to dazzle local crowds with an ensemble of uncommon brilliance and precision.

The touring programs were predictably drilled to perfection, but there was more than unanimity of approach to admire. The first concert was rich and varied, mixing both familiar and challenging works.

Even in the dry acoustic of Davies, Temirkanov managed to put across the creamy sweetness of the divided strings and the thrilling clarity of the brass. The renowned St. Petersburg flute section sounded especially winsome.

The program opened with Prokofiev's delightful Symphony No. 1 in D Major, *Classical.* Each movement had a gemlike transparency that revealed the composer's debt to Mozart and Haydn while accenting his own distinctive harmonies. The large orchestra achieved a chamber-like texture, uncovering many frequently blurred facets.



Repin: a mood of dreamy lyricism.

Guest soloist Vadim Repin couldn't have asked for a more congenial introduction. His performance of Prokofiev's Violin Concerto No. 1 stood in ideal contrast, and served as another example of Temirkanov's care with pacing.

The conductor framed Repin's breathtaking accuracy with glowing sympathy, and their rapport created a mood of dreamy lyricism. It made the more aggressive pages appear exceptionally logical. The soft conclusion was superbly handled, and the audience responded correctly, with a moment of satisfied silence before erupting into enthusiastic applause.

Repin could have left it there, but an encore was simply inevitable. His offbeat choice of Ysaye's Sonata No. 3, *Ballade,* had everyone guessing the composer, and earned him another well-deserved standing ovation.

Bravura show

After intermission came a fleet-footed and tightly controlled account of Dvorak's lovable Symphony No. 8 in G Major. The instantly recognizable and plentiful melodies have given skeptics pause about the work's coherence in the past. Temirkanov turned it into a bravura showcase for the visiting orchestra's virtuosity. I could have listened to the finale again as a particularly satisfying encore.

The excited and appreciative crowd actually demanded two encores. Both were selections from Tchaikovsky's *Nutcracker.* The final Russian Dance was not only appropriate, but terrific.

We have come to expect a tradition of excellence from the San Francisco Symphony, and Michael Tilson Thomas has certainly brought the orchestra to international prominence. Nevertheless, there is no denying the pleasure of hearing another ensemble with a legendary past in the utilitarian confines of Davies Hall. Comparisons can be enlightening.

The concert I heard the previous afternoon with the SFS and Edwin Outwater was a case in point. A very good but rather bland Tamaki Kawakubo gave a note-perfect reading of the Mendelssohn Violin Concerto. The orchestra performed Haydn's *Oxford* Symphony with less than customary flair, but Martinu's charming *Sinfonietta La Jolla* (with Robin Sutherland at the piano) came out of left field with real panache.

It was a pleasant matinee, and the audience made a happy discovery of the Martinu. It proved that even on an off day, our own dedicated crew can stand the competition. ▼

Out There

◀ previous page

Smith for screwing up her intro of **Kanye West** on the American Music Awards. **Jimmy Kimmel**, thy name is Shoots-Fish-in-a-Barrel. But the publicist for Anna Nicole's weight-loss pills wants us to know the company sticks by her, thick and thin.

We love Anna Nicole's new ad campaign for PETA, "Gentlemen prefer fur-free blondes." We don't know what's more plush, her pink satin gown or the tuxedoed gents who surround her. Anna Nicole says, "My late husband gave me two fur coats years ago, but I've never worn them." Way to go, hon.

Pan drippings

With the new **James M. Barrie** biopic *Finding Neverland* now playing moviehouses, eternal boy **Peter Pan** trivia is suddenly back on Out There's radar. Or should we say gaydar? We've always loved that Peter is traditionally played by a woman.

Perhaps the stage's most famed Pan, theatre legend **Mary Martin**, was also the mother of actor **Larry Hagman** of *Dallas* fame. Also, for many years, Martin reportedly was lovers with thespian **Janet Gaynor**, the first actress to win an Academy Award *and* a former usher at SF's very own Castro Theatre. Imagine: Martin, a famous Peter Pan and **J.R. Ewing**'s mother, was something of a lesbian! Can we say that?

Meanwhile, out gay Spanish director **Alejandro Amenábar** (*The Others*) was in town last week to promote his upcoming movie *The Sea Inside,* starring the luscious **Javier Bardem**, set for Stateside release next month. He was taken to see the fabulous **Connie Champagne** perform as **Judy Garland** at the Empire Plush Room. His gregarious cabaretgoing consort had to act as interpreter across more than one cultural divide. First, Amenábar had never heard of **Cheap Trick**. Then, when Champagne, as Judy, launched into her rendition of "Bohemian Rhapsody," the three elderly women seated behind them were *ferklempt!* They had never even heard of **Queen**! Who says the global village is a reality? ▼

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Alternative holiday shows galore on Bay Area stages

by Richard Dodds

San Francisco may march to its own little drummer boy, but that's not to suggest we don't have holiday spirit. It's just that we want a little more kick to our eggnog. Theatrically speaking, that means a flurry of alt-yule offerings to complement *A Christmas Carol*, *White Christmas*, and the like.

While such past favorites as *Christmas with the Crawfords* and *The Karen Carpenter Christmas Special* are not arising this year, several attractions are back from previous seasons and are joined by a few new kids on the block.

With some new songs and a new member, *Kinsey Sicks: Oy Vey in the Manger* returns to New Conservatory Theatre Center for its second year of dragappella song and comedy. Running Nov. 26-Dec. 31, the show deconstructs holiday traditions with such songs as "I'm Dreaming of a Vanna White Christmas," "God Bless Ye Femmy Lesbians," and "A Lay in a Manger." Call 861-8972 or go to nctc.org.



GrooveLily perform *Striking 12*.

At TheatreWorks in Palo Alto, the tale of the little matchgirl goes groovy (or more precisely, GrooveLily) in *Striking 12* (Dec. 1-Jan. 2). Described as "one of the hottest young alternative rock bands in the country," the three-member GrooveLily first performed the concert-play in San Diego last year. In the show, Hans Christian Andersen's little matchgirl becomes a door-to-door peddler of lightbulbs that promise relief from seasonal affective disorder, and her visit sends a misanthrope in search of his holiday spirit. Call (650) 903-6000 or go to theatreworks.org.

Holiday perennial *It's a Wonderful Life* takes on a Jewish identity in *It Could Have Been a Wonderful Life*, returning Dec. 10-26 to the Phoenix Theatre. In the solo comedy, Fred Raker plays multiple characters, famous and otherwise, in the story of a suicidal, failed stand-up comedian visited by a guardian angel who sounds a lot like Jack Benny. Call 989-0023 or go to ticketweb.com.

For the second year, SteinBeck Presents is offering a double-bill of satirist David Sedaris' holiday-themed monologues at the Shelton Theatre (Dec. 2-19). In *The Santaland Diaries*, Christmas is seen through the eyes of a hired elf at Macys. *Season's Greetings* follows a housewife who considers desperate measures to maintain her holiday traditions. Call 820-1565 or go to steinbeckpresents.org.

The Lorraine Hansberry Theatre is once again presenting *Black Nativity* (Nov. 26-Dec. 19). Robin Hodge Williams heads the cast of gospel artists in Langston Hughes' interpretation of the Christmas story. Call 474-8800 or go to lorrainehansberrytheatre.com.

Director Richard J. Bernier is back with another collection of irreverent holiday one-acts under the umbrella title *Uncle Dickie's Wicked Little Christmas*. Some of the short plays were chosen from a nationally publicized contest, and others were acquired from known playwrights, including SF lesbian playwright Terry Baum, who writes about Hanukkah. Performances are Dec. 2-18 at the Exit Theatre. Go to ticketweb.com.

Jacob Marley, who's quite dead at the start of *A Christmas Carol*, now has his own backstory. In Tom Mula's *Jacob Marley's Christmas Carol*, Scrooge's late business-partner gets a chance to save his soul by returning to Earth to show Ebenezer the light. Runs Nov. 27-Dec. 19 at Actors Theatre of SF. Call 296-9179 or go to ticketweb.com.



Paul Reiser

Ben Schatz, Chris Dilley, Irwin Keller, Jeff Manabat are the Kinsey Sicks.

The Man Who Came to Dinner (Dec. 9-Jan. 9) isn't really a Yuletide attraction, but it's set during the holidays, and there's a Christmas tree on stage. Theatre Rhino is giving the Kaufman and Hart classic a bit of a gay twist, starting with P.A. Cooley in the curmudgeonly title role. Call 861-5079 or go to therhino.org.

Leibe Wetzel and Lunatique Fantastique, who create puppet dramas from found objects, returns with the fifth edition of *The Wrapping Paper Caper* that turns holiday detritus into a cast of characters. Performances are Dec. 4-5 at the Bay Area Discovery Museum (339-3900) in Sausalito and Dec. 11-Jan. 2 at the Marsh (826-5750). More info at lunfan.com.

And something for the pagans: Although it's billed as *The Christmas Revels*, this annual program of song, dance and drama is subtitled *A Theatrical Celebration of the Winter Solstice*. Each year, *Revels* recreates a different historical way of celebrating the year's end. This season it's 18th-century Scotland. Performances Dec. 10-19 at the Scottish Rite Theater in Oakland. Call 773-1181 or go to calrevels.org.

From the Fringe

Come Fly with Me Nude earned a Best of the Fringe award at this year's SF Fringe Festival, and now it's moving into the mainstream. Opening Dec. 2 at the Exit Theatre, this comedy stars Todd Pickering and Diane Karagienakos as performers Dom and Bella, who don't let their limitations as artists outweigh their mission.

In the show, they interpret their personal life stories with inspiration from Ann-Margret, *The Exorcist*, Federico Fellini, Bob Fosse, and the Ice Capades. And they also explain how their meeting has possibly changed the future of art forever.

For tickets, call 956-1737 or go to ticketweb.com. ▼

Richard Dodds can be reached at BARstage@aol.com.









Empty Victorians

Aurora brings Austen's 'Emma' to stage

by Richard Dodds

Because Jane Austen's novels have fared so well onscreen, it's surprising how poorly *Emma* comes across on the stage. Not that adapting a work with dozens of principal characters and multiple locations is going to be easy, or necessary, but somehow even Austen's much-admired prose comes across as flat and uninteresting in a production based on the 1816 novel at the Aurora Theatre.

Because the Aurora is a famously tiny space, it might seem impossible to squeeze the sprawling plot onto the stage. But that turns out not to be the problem, though the solution brings on a whole other set of problems. The program signals this even before the play begins with a complicated flow chart illustrating who is playing which characters, and how those characters are interrelated.

Director Jeffrey Bihr is using an adaptation by Michael Fry that creates a framing device that turns the novel into a rainy-afternoon game for five bored young people. Digging through an attic trunk filled with old books, they settle on *Emma* for an impromptu performance, begin divvying up the roles, and use old clothes and furniture for costumes and props.



David Allen

Lauren Grace, Joe Wyka in *Emma*.

That solves the production problem, but the storytelling becomes hopelessly confused as actors leap among the Austen characters. Well, perhaps not hopelessly, but demanding a significant effort that after a while doesn't seem worth expending.

Now, if Fry had somehow made Austen's social observations relevant to the young storytellers, then that could complement and perhaps further illuminate the original novel. But other than some playful nudges among the storytellers, they are empty vessels, and by the end, the entire conceit has been abandoned.

Nursing a raspy voice, Lauren Grace never quite connects with the flighty, matchmaking Emma. But Lindsay Benner and Kathleen Dobbs effectively inhabit a variety of other female roles. David Mendelsohn manages to enliven the evening with his playfully foppish performance as the vicar (among others), and Joe Wyka provides a steady presence as Emma's true love.

The cast certainly earns its salary, plus a round of appreciative applause from an opening-night audience that had noticeably dwindled between the acts. ▼

***Emma* will run at the Aurora Theatre through Dec. 19. Tickets are $36. Call (510) 843-4822 or go to auroratheatre.org.**

Pit-stop on the road to success

Wilco take a breather at the Fillmore

by David Sason

Halfway through their sold-out show at the Fillmore last Monday night, Wilco singer/songwriter Jeff Tweedy said how great it was to play "a place where you don't have to ask people to sit down and stand up." This was an apt comment, considering their sudden, unexpected commercial success in the last couple of years. The intimate appearance, a last-minute addition following two much larger concerts in San Jose and Oakland, showed Wilco weary of their newfound status as "the American Radiohead." Following mixed reviews of *A Ghost Is Born*, the highly anticipated follow-up to their 2002 accidental masterpiece *Yankee Hotel Foxtrot*, and Tweedy's obligatory rock-star stint in rehab, the band relished performing for a smaller audience driven more by devotion than by curiosity.

From the start, their two-hour-plus set was a two-way lovefest, with diehard fans savoring songs from every phase of the band's decade-long career, from their new ode to the underground scene's purity, "The Late Greats," to their drunken country/Western anthem "Passenger Side," from their debut album. The few hundred lucky fans who attended were rewarded with a loose, energetic show of recent songs and older gems. Tweedy, looking as thin as ever, was in rare, fun-loving form, dancing around, inciting clapping accompaniment from the crowd, and pausing to heckle a loud, inebriated fan during the hushed sing-along "Misunderstood."

Tweedy let the crowd in on the joke that is Wilco's success, noting how they appropriately saved their "hit song" for the show's end: "Heavy Metal Drummer," their one single ever to receive a fair amount of radio airplay. The absurdity of becoming critical darlings with an album which got them dropped from their record label was apparent in their stage banter and an inspired performance of "Company in My Back."

Behind the hype

Irony aside, Wilco proved they had substance behind the hype with masterful musicianship in a remarkable range in styles, from bluesy, down-home offerings like "Kingpin" to the punk-riffed "Kicking Television." The mostly college-age crowd cheered loudly for every tempo. The stage's set-design was severe, only a video-screen showing stock images. For a band still pegged with the "alternative country" label they helped create, Wilco was clear about their current musical direction, drawing heavily from their recent, more experimental material, like pulsing new rocker "Spiders (Kidsmoke)" and the ballad "Poor Places," which culminated in a two-minute orgy of noise.

With the Presidential election still pervasive in everyone's psyche, Tweedy was in full political-commentary mode, urging the crowd, "Don't mourn, organize," before the band launched into their bouncy anthem "War on War." With his jokes about being from a fellow blue state, the Illinois native took full advantage of being in such a liberal city, expressing his disbelief that anyone could have voted for Bush, and showing old footage of the then-Governor of Texas jokingly offering a middle finger to the camera. When the psychedelic video image of a pulsating amoeba appeared, Tweedy joked, "It's a stem cell."

After two lengthy encores, the band closed the night with a surprisingly straightforward rendition of "Don't Fear the Reaper," the cheesy '70s radio staple by Blue Oyster Cult. Last week's concert showed the sheer talent and power of this band. ▼



Wilco singer/songwriter Jeff Tweedy led a two-hour lovefest with fans.

Out, 'Shine!'

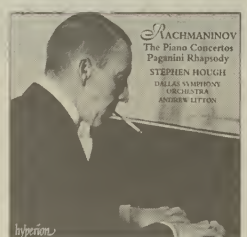
Rachmaninov enough

by Tim Pfaff

Now and then, all too rarely, a recording comes along that so radically challenges received notions of standard music that it becomes, itself, historical. The new CDs of Rachmaninov's four piano concertos and the *Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini* by Stephen Hough and the Dallas Symphony Orchestra under Andrew Litton (Hyperion) is one of them.

After my first listening to these two generously-packed discs, I set them on a nearby shelf the way you do something that's swept you away in what feels like a potentially dangerous way. I knew that if I finally succumbed to these interpretations, a lot of old favorite recordings would loiter on the shelf a long time. Over subsequent listenings, Hough and Litton, equal partners in this enterprise, have so won me over I'm almost relieved to be living where I'm unlikely to hear "old-fashioned" live performances.

You never know what's up next in this brilliant (in every respect) gay pianist's prodigal repertoire, and I would not have predicted Rachmaninov. But Hough's own bewitching note explains how he grew up with Rachmaninov's own recordings of the works and has missed the musical rhetoric that made them distinctive in most



other interpretations since. So, these bracingly live (except for the *Rhapsody*) recordings from April and May this year are based on historical performance practices.

To use his own words, Hough has "become fluent in the pianistic language of that time" with consistently startling results. From everyone, the playing, while scrupulously attentive to the composer's markings, couldn't be less pedantic.

Audience favorites Nos. 2 & 3 are conveniently paired on disc 2, a vast landscape of re-envisioned brilliance. No other recordings I know boast such pellucid clarity, but never at the expense of the sweep, drama, and unbuttoned emotionality of the works.

Hough daringly directs listeners to the 1941 recording of the Third by Vladimir Horowitz, whom Rachmaninov considered the greatest interpreter of the piece. I listened to his after the '41

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Hearsts and minds

Patty Hearst goes 'Guerrilla' in new doc

by David Lamble

Just when did terrorism become mass entertainment? Perhaps in the same moment that news and show business merged. Asking the under-30 generation to remember the peculiarly Bay Area, homegrown brand of political theatre that was the Symbionese Liberation Army's (SLA) kidnapping of newspaper heiress (and future John Waters star) Patricia Hearst is like asking the same history-challenged youngsters to recall who was President before Bill Clinton.

Documentary filmmaker Robert Stone's *Guerrilla: The Taking of Patty Hearst*, opening Friday, provides deftly edited footage that allows us into the hallucinatory headspace of the 600 very odd days beginning in February 1974, when the SLA became the news. Stone adroitly juxtaposes the memories of SLA founding member Russell Little and the more cynical bite of SF *Chronicle* reporter Tim Findley with the still incredulous recollections of a retired FBI agent and Berkeley camp-follower, Mike Bortin. Bortin appears to have become swept up into the story, as if an invisible hand had reached out of his TV and grabbed him by the throat. Little explains how his dreams to be an astronaut were weaned on television, and director Stone implies that the SLA members' heroic self-image was fed by shows like *Robin Hood* and movies where Omar Sharif, as Che Guevara, gave a swashbuckling, totally romanticized spin to Third World revolutions.

In an interview, a much sadder Little temporary leaves his post-SLA life in Hawaii to explain how weird it felt at the time to watch from a San Quentin prison cell as his one-time compatriots traded idealistic dreams for a cobra/mongoose-like dance in the media. The fiery police siege of an SLA hideout in LA went out over live television, a forerunner to today's 24-hr. news cycle, and an eerie precursor to embedded journalists sending shaky pictures of live combat through cellphone-powered streaming video.

Heat stroke

In hindsight, two things stand out starkly from this 30-year-old story, yanked like a frozen leg of lamb from media cold-storage. First, the SLA's ace in the hole, their real grip on the public's ever-shortening attention span, was the sexual heat that wafted out from the story. In only a couple of years, writer Paddy Chayefsky would make the bare bones of the SLA travesty into a major subplot of his brilliant satire of the future of TV tabloid news. While *Guerrilla* references Patty Hearst's possible co-option by a romance with sexy SLA poster-boy Willie Wolf, Chayefsky's *Network* demonstrated that this same Stockholm Syndrome, whereby a victim identifies with and becomes one with her captives, could be reproduced in millions of passive TV junkies.

The other lasting legacy of the SLA is somewhat more benign. The SLA's demand for Hearst to feed the poor was taken up at the time by Glide Memorial Church's Rev. Cecil Williams (shown in all his fiery if somewhat nostalgic fury), whose efforts to this day constitute a major part of the Bay Area's fragile safety net.

Stone demonstrates how Papa Hearst, strapped for cash, used the media feeding-frenzy as his own link to the people holding Patty.



Patty Hearst as Tanya: the SLA's heroic self-image was fed by the movies.

For the small army of journalists covering the story, in turn, life at the Hearsts' was a free buffet and an ongoing justification for a story whose main actors were nowhere to be seen. Stone artfully employs TV outtakes to show reporters bivouacking outside the Hearst mansion, just as their successors would later do at OJ's house, or, in Laramie, amongst friends of Matthew Shepard. ▼



Heir supply

'Born Rich' at the Roxie Cinema

by David Lamble

Was it Proust who said, "Behind every great fortune lies a great crime?" At least it can be said that standing alongside every great fortune is the next generation, waiting to get their hands on it. A new film peeks at a group of disgustingly affluent young people who didn't do a thing to deserve it, except to be *Born Rich*. That's the title of a film now at the Roxie, made by a young man who announces in the first reel that he himself has come into a considerable fortune due solely to the fact that his great-grandfather knew how to sell small, painless bandages.

Jaime Johnson says he didn't know he was a rich kid until a classmate at school saw his father's name listed in a *Forbes* magazine article about America's 400 wealthiest families. While Johnson's not-so-privileged classmates merely laughed at his good fortune, another scion of great wealth was not so lucky. In one of the 10 portraits Johnson presents, a young heir confesses that knowledge of his family's money caused him to be beaten up at a meeting of Quakers — presumably the Richard Nixon branch.



Jaime Johnson and his painter father have problems of inherited wealth.

Johnson's film is a briskly entertaining romp through the only class of people guaranteed to be better off at the end of the Bush years. Including his own family's saga in the mix, Johnson gets us close up to 10 young people who don't feel the need to make the world a better place. The young heirs are seen doing pretty much what you might expect with their money: spending too much on clothes, partying at impossibly expensive nightclubs, raising horses and raising hell.

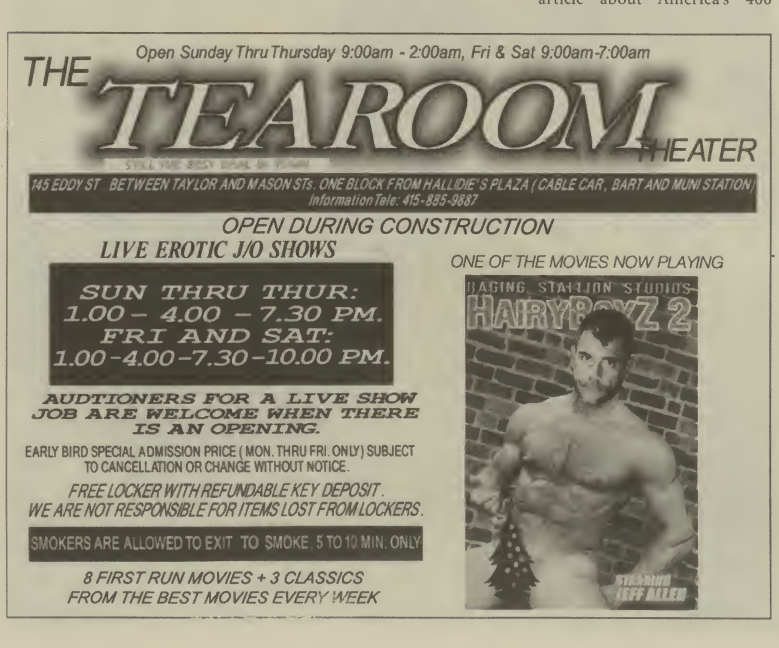
Johnson, who during the course of 81 minutes has some lively arguments with his rather dour painter father about why he shouldn't make this movie, confesses that he had a hard time rounding up 10 subjects who were willing to be frank about the insecurities and real problems that come along with inheriting a great deal of money.

The most outspoken of the lot, and the young guy mostly likely to raise the hackles of people like us, is Luke Weill, heir to the bundle of cash harvested daily by his family's sports-betting business. Weill, who has qualms about being in the film and will unsuccessfully sue Johnson to get out of it, projects a seductive kind of anti-charm. With a snarky smile and an unruly mop of curly hair, he comes off as an even more privileged and less deserving version of George W. Bush. Like several in the group who were subjected to the child abuse of private boarding schools, Weill is brutally honest that when guys like him are admitted to schools like Brown, daddy's money talks and nobody flunks out.

Fortune's child

The young heir to the Vanderbilt/Whitney fortune comes across as the most introspective and generally thoughtful of the rich kids. Josiah Hornblower, proud about taking the subway (and unashamed about how rich his family became building it),

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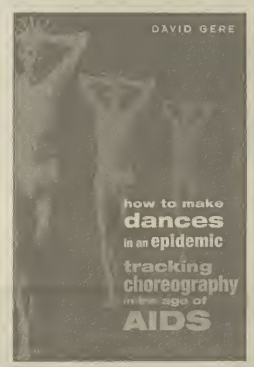


Dancers from the dance

Author David Gere on 'How To Make Dances in an Epidemic'

by Tim Miller

David Gere's extraordinary new book *How To Make Dances in an Epidemic: Tracking Choreography in the Age of AIDS* (U. of Wisconsin Press, $24.95) is a huge contribution toward understanding AIDS, gay identity and cultural expression over the last two decades. Gere, a well-known dance critic in SF in the '80s, now a respected professor at UCLA, looks not only at theatrical dances, but also at the direct-action street protests conceived by ACT-UP, the NAMES Project AIDS quilt, even funerals. All of these expressions occupy a space where dance, protest, and profound grief become essentially indistinguishable. Gere's portrait of gay male choreographers struggling to cope with AIDS and its meanings is heart-breaking in both its breadth and intimacy.



The title is an homage to the groundbreaking 1983 pamphlet *How To Have Sex in an Epidemic*, in which Richard Berkowitz and Michael Callen grappled with finding a sex-positive way to be queer in the horrors of early-'80s AIDS. I recently spoke with Gere about choreography, sexuality and gay men's bodies.

Tim Miller: There is a charged poignancy to using dance, the most ephemeral art, to chart the empty space left by HIV/AIDS. Even as these dances disappear after they are performed, so did many of the choreographers and dancers we lost to AIDS.

David Gere: Sometimes I felt as though I were trying to cup water and keep it from dripping out of my hands. The disappearance of gay men whose dances I've seen and loved is so poignant. But as I worked on the book I really felt a determination to describe these dances as fully and as vividly as I could, so that they could remain alive. Even if the people who made them were dead.

I mean, if you're Balanchine, and you're working in a fully sanctioned artform like ballet, you can count on your acolytes to keep your work alive. But if you are an openly gay man who choreographs a piece on the street, in a pink bodybag, as an AIDS protest — I'm thinking of Paul Diaz's "One AIDS Death…" — chances are the work disappears when you stop performing it. Even if the piece is extraordinary and accomplishes big things.

I know I'm working against the mold here, because one of the big arguments used to denigrate dances made in response to AIDS is they aren't "masterpieces." But to me, that's bullshit. You don't know what a masterpiece is until a couple of generations have passed. So I go for a more current definition: Did the piece catalyze action? Did it help us get new treatments through the pipeline? Did it cause a shift in stigma and discrimination? And was it beautiful? I'm most interested in the place where aesthetic beauty and action meet.


Steve Savage

Keith Hennessy performing *Saliva*, '89: transgressive, spiritual, visionary.

Probably only someone as obsessive as I am would do it this way, but I started by writing down every memory that stayed with me from the '80s and early '90s, at the height of the epidemic. I moved to SF in '85 and left for LA in '93, so I treated my own life as an archive. I pulled all the reviews I'd written of dances that had anything to do with HIV. I unearthed notes from many performances I had seen but never written about for a newspaper. Then I started writing choreographers all over the country to ask if they would share their memories and videotapes with me.

What I ended up with was a fairly exhaustive list of dances that had dealt with HIV, from the slow movement of Lar Lubovitch's *Concerto 622*, which became something of an AIDS anthem in the late '80s, to Joe Goode's *Remembering the Pool at the Best Western*, in which Joe gets visited by the ghost of his dead friend. Most of these I couldn't fit into my book, but they did end up in a web-based survey of choreography and HIV that I did for the Estate Project for Artists with AIDS [*artistswithaids.org*].

More than the dances themselves, I tried to get at the sense of urgency and intensity that generated them. I mean, think of it: How often does someone make a work of art not because they want to make something pretty, but because they need to, in order to save their lives?

The examinations of the performance and sexual ritual spaces created by Keith Hennessy and Jim Self were particularly charged. What role do these experiential, ritual performances serve in community?

I felt especially drawn to Keith's and Jim's performances because these two men are so transgressive, so spiritual, and so visionary, all at the same time. Keith performed *Saliva* under a freeway overpass in SF in '88. Many critics wouldn't think of showing up, or if they did, their papers wouldn't publish a description of Keith stripping naked and smearing his body with a bowl of spit collected straight from the mouths of his audience members. Not in a family newspaper.

Likewise, even though several mainstream dance writers paid attention to Jim's *Sanctuary*, they very coyly avoided any detailed discussion of the erotic massage, to orgasm, that was the literal climax of the piece.

That was a major omission I was determined to redress in my book. I wanted the sex back, and the rituals of healing, too. When everybody talks now about a concern with "moral issues" having

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South African HIV+ poster boy

by Joe E. Jeffreys

We Are All the Same by Jim Wooten; Penguin, $19.95

We Are All the Same is Jim Wooten's moving life story of Xolani Nkosi Johnson. A Zulu, South African-born HIV-positive during the last year of apartheid, Johnson's 12-year life saw him go from birth in a wasteland squatter's camp to a prominent role in South African and even world AIDS policymaking and activism.

You will read parts of this book through tears. It will also make you smile, laugh and shake your head in disbelief. It will also surely uplift and inspire.

Wooten, a senior correspondent for ABC News, met Johnson and the white family who adopted him (after the AIDS death of his birth mother) during an assignment. "It's my belief," he writes, "that anyone who has the good fortune to cross paths with people as exceptional as this child and this woman is obligated to pass along their story."

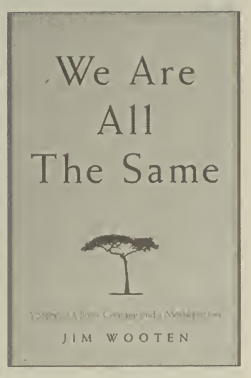
Deeply drawn to Johnson, Wooten rightly discards cold, journalistic distance, and writes himself into the book, making it read like a contemplative and literary memoir of his relationship with this remarkable boy. Writing with concision, Wooten supplies just enough South African history, culture and politics to give meaningful context to Johnson's story, and his given life circumstances. While he does not linger over them, Wooten also gives just enough of the country's grim mortality rates to illustrate the enormous scale of the struggle Johnson took on.

Paralleling the fights for freedom and understanding fought by Johnson and Nelson Mandela, Wooten points out faults in both, including the former South African President's lackluster record on AIDS. He also airs the wrongheaded beliefs of President Thabo Mbeki, Mandela's successor, and Johnson's personal tangles with him. Among other things, Mbeki believed that there was no HIV virus, and outlawed AZT and nevirapine.

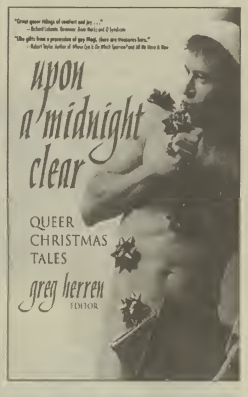
Another of the story's dynamic tensions arises from the cultural and proprietary tugs between Johnson's adoptive and relatively privileged white family, and the surviving grandmother of his impoverished birth family.

Born in anonymity, Xolani Nkosi Johnson became an icon, putting a face on pediatric AIDS for a country unwilling and unable to face the problem. He also served as the inspiration and founding spirit for several AIDS care facilities that bear his name, opened legislative doors for HIV-positive schoolchildren, and eloquently addressed major AIDS conferences worldwide.

A charismatic boy with no chance, his death in 2001 spurred a front-page *New York Times* obituary. His life may have been short, but once you read this book, you will never forget him, his struggles and triumphs. ▼



The stockings were hung



by Jim Piechota

Upon a Midnight Clear: Queer Christmas Tales edited by Greg Herren; The Haworth Press, $14.95

With the holidays looming ever closer, this engaging new collection of gay Christmas stories, edited by prolific writer Greg Herren, will make a great stocking stuffer.

The first of the 15 stories features local writer M. Christian's sparkling gay version of "It's a Wonderful Life" simply called "It's a Life," where "Every time a guy kisses another guy, a fairy gets his wings." An unrequited obsession colors Quentin Harrington's humorous fable "The Snow Queen," and Stephen Soucy's "Skating" has his restless protagonist traveling back in time to find the proper Christmas present.

Families, extended or otherwise, become a theme throughout the book, as in Jim Grimsley's moving, lyrical excerpt from his '99 novel *Comfort and Joy,* the dark, sobering portrait drawn by David McConnell in "Christmas, 1989," and Warren Dunford's hilarious "Secret Family Recipe," about a man who becomes nauseous while spending the holidays with his boyfriend's rigid relatives. Felice Picano's delightfully sexy romp through gay Manhattan, "Xmas in the Apple," and Jay Quinn's cozy closing story are the best of the longer tales in the book, and add depth and a fully-developed sense of place and character to the entire collection. ▼

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HIV/AIDS DVDs

◀ Arts cover

terminally ill choose their own destinies. It glorifies the beauty of life, and the sanctity of a quiet, dignified death.

MGM presents *It's My Party* letterboxed. Extras include a behind-the-scenes featurette, commentaries with Kleiser and his cast, and the film's trailer. There are subtitle options in English, Spanish and-French.

Angels in America (HBO Films, '03)

This six-hour epic got lots of great press and won many Emmys. Unfortunately, many did not see it, as it was shown exclusively on HBO. Now on DVD, *Angels in America* can be seen and savored by those who don't get the channel. The film has the grand, epic sweep of Hollywood classics like *Gone With the Wind.* If Cecil B. DeMille were to make a film about AIDS in the '80s, *Angels* is the film he would have made.

Emmy-winner Al Pacino shines as Roy Cohn, the most evil gay man who ever lived. Cohn, a powerful, highly connected attorney, made his career by destroying the careers of others, though various smear campaigns, including outing. The self-righteous, deeply closeted Cohn succumbed to AIDS in the early '90s.

Meryl Streep and Emma Thompson are also part of the large cast, playing multiple roles each. Streep is unforgettable in early scenes, utterly convincing in male drag as a Hasidic Rabbi! Justin Kirk, last seen in *Love! Valour! Compassion!,* is quite good as a man with AIDS who has been abandoned by his lover.

With *Angels in America,* HBO continues its tradition of making topical, cutting-edge films that are better than anything playing at the multiplex. HBO has the guts to make films that the major studios, out of cowardice, will never make.

HBO presents *Angels in America* on two discs. There are no extras other than subtitle options in English and Spanish.

Life and Death on the A List (Water Bearer Films, '96)

Not for the faint-hearted, this intense documentary pulls no punches in its graphic depiction of the horrors of dying of AIDS. A courageous film by Jay Corcoran, it is also a stunning indictment of the trap of empty hedonism.



Tom McBride (1952-'95) was an "A-list gay" in New York City from roughly '84-'93. He was an actor/model who played a number of small roles, appearing with Bette Davis in *Family Reunion* ('81) and on the daytime soap *Loving.* He also appeared in numerous commercials and on billboards. By Hollywood standards, he was small potatoes, but in NYC's Chelsea, he was a superstar.

Beautiful and buffed, McBride's star status was based on his looks. Outside of work, his life consisted of glittering parties, gym workouts, and endless sexual encounters. McBride, desired by all who saw him, had hundreds of men, yet considered those he didn't have to be the great "tragedy" of his life.

McBride's life was shallow and empty. He was so focused on his hedonism that he was never able to comprehend what was missing from his life: love.

When McBride contracted AIDS, his health and his looks went quickly. So did his celebrity status. Once the toast of Chelsea, he was forgotten overnight. This video was shot during the final year of McBride's life. It's hard to believe that the skeletal figure before us is the same beautiful young man we see in clips. His final months were a true horror. Racked with brain seizures and finally unable to move or speak, McBride's life ends before our eyes.

That he seemed so incapable of expressing love seems odd. He had a family who loved and accepted him, and they were there at his side during his final months. McBride had been loved, yet seemed unable to return love.

The tragedy of Tom McBride is the tragedy of many of our lives. We have been a people that puts far too much emphasis on physical beauty, often to the exclusion of loving and welcoming each other into the community. Far too many of us have lived empty lives. All too often, this has been of our own making.

Life and Death takes this self-destructive mentality to task and asks us to do some deep soul-searching. Nearly 25 years into the AIDS crisis, what kind of lives and community do we really want?

Water Bearer Films has released this powerful testament on VHS only. They will be pulling it from distribution shortly after the New Year. While you still can, be sure to see this important work. ▼

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BAY AREA REPORTER

OUT&ABOUT

Calendare by Mark Mardon

Anna Conda wins Trannyshack title

The 9th Annual Trannyshack Pageant, held last Saturday night at the grand Regency Center ballroom, was nothing like drag pageants in the Deep South, drawled the tipsy young blonde thing seated next to me in the VIP balcony. We were watching San Francisco's insanely brilliant and artfully demented trannies performing acts of drag heresy in huge production numbers. "Too much camp!" he hissed. "In South Carolina where I'm from, we take our drag pageants seriously!" These Trannyshack hostesses make a mockery of proper drag, he harrumphed.

He's right, which is exactly why the huge ballroom was jammed to the rafters with a wildly excitable crowd. It was a stunner, folks. It began with real-woman drag/cabaret sensation **Trixxie Carr**, as brassy and beautiful as ever, joining Hostess **Heklina** for the opening number, both decked out in wigs by **Christian of Glama-Rama** and stunning couture by **Mr. David** (Glamamore), whose gowns throughout the night made the event one not just of camp, but of high fashion.

The night's Miss Trannyshack winner was **Anna Conda,** who charmed the judges with her delicate beauty corrupted by her voracious appetite for cuts of supermarket prime rib, legs of lamb, pork haunches and other fattening animal products. In her fat outfit, weighing in at 360 lbs., she lipped the words to Devo's version of the classic Rolling Stones song "(Can't Get No) Satisfaction," before having to be wheeled off stage by assistants.

I (and much of the audience, I think) would have chosen differently. I thought **Kiddie** was a contender, with live video images of her, via camera wielding monks, projected on screen as she stood serenely still, a gorgeous visage with shaved head, red rose at left ear, her eyebrows Maybelline perfect, regal in her silvery garb with train. All was sublime, and then came the shock and awe as a red-*hot-iron-rod-wielding monk branded her arm live on stage! Un*flinching, she sang a bluesy song of longing to the refrains of a deep alto sax.

More dazzling in its opulance was **Diva Dan**'s operatic Roman orgy scene, complete with the diva's grand arrival by gilt litter, born aloft by brawny centurians wearing penis-revealing skirts. After much dancing, feasting and faux-fucking on stage, the highlight was Diva Dan's enthusiastic sucking of a well hung centaur.

Drag King **Jay Walker** did Broadway and Nascar country proud as a full-leather sporting car jockey amid a gang of overall-wearing mechanics in a rendering of "Greased Lightning" from the musical *Grease*. It was good, but a little too familiar.

Syphillis Diller, in a candy cane Queen Anne gown, unrolled leagues of fabric to wrap her entourage of bikini-clad boys in her Church of Syphillis. She transformed into a minister to perform a gay wedding, and magically grew to immense height (thanks to a hydraulic cherry picker), her robe emblazoned with a crucifix even as a stained-glass projection carried the words "Fuck Bush".

Falsetta Knockers closed the show with an elaborate production set in an all-satin bedroom. Synching to "Nights in White Satin," Falsetta in video is revealed to have received a dear Falsetta letter, her break-up leading to eviction, descent into drugs and madness. In a delerium, she envisions a carnival/insane-asylum in her room, replete with patients in wheelchairs and with walkers, boy gymnists, a unicyclist, wrestlers, and other creatures of delusion.

In the non-contest category, **Juanita More** and **Glamamore** were the winners, at least in my book. To the sweet, delicate refrains of Delibes' *Lakmé,* atop a giant sheet of white paper, Juanita and Glamamore emerged slowly turning, their stunning all-white, head-to-toe paper gowns as delicate and complex as white roses. It was *The Flying Nun* meets *Flower Drum Song*. Soon they were doing calligraphy on each other's gowns, turning to reveal the words "Forever More!"

Outgoing Miss Trannyshack **Fauxnique** showed her real-girl drag power to a Kate Bush number, dancing en pointe amid a brace of witches/dancers waving branches, eventually twining ribbons around her as they danced a maypole dance to the rhythm of an Irish jig.

Ana Matronic of **Scissor Sisters** ("Take Your Mama Out") was electric just by her presence, with her gorgeous red hair and deep shimmering-blue gown. Her hit band will be touring the Red States soon, so hopefully they'll do a bit to enlighten our lost Red brethren.

What these queens do reminds me why the Blue States are so priceless. San Francisco, as the heart of the West Coast Blues, fosters a climate of uninhibited artistic freedom in an atmosphere of broad civil liberties, heavily flavored by flaming queer attitudes. These guy-gals and gal-guys do for this city what Broadway and off- do for NYC, and Nashville's country music artists do for the Red States: deliver knock-out shows that combine sizzle, sass, serious artistic/conceptual vision, technological wizardry, stage showmanship, high and low camp, magnificent costumes, a keen sense of the local culture, a serious undermining of stuffy tradition, and that ineffable something called Star Power. ▼



Mark Mardon

Heklina shares the pageant afterglow with Miss Trannyshack winner Anna Conda. See "Calendare."

Fri 26

Kinsey Sicks: Oy Vey in a Manger! @ NCTC

America's Favorite Dragapella Beauty Shop Quartet return to New Conservatory Theatre Center with their holiday hit, *Kinsey Sicks: Oy Vey in a Manger!* This year, four stars shine over Bethlehem as the Kinsey Sicks deploy their biting musical wit and over-the-top drag in the global effort to stamp out holiday cheer. Featuring Ben Schatz as "Rachel," Irwin Keller as "Winnie," Chris Dilley as "Trampolina" and Jeff Manabat as "Trixie." $25-$35. Wed.-Fri. 8pm; Sat. & New year's Eve at 7:30pm & 10pm. Thru Dec. 31 (no shows Dec. 24 & 25). NCTC, 25 Van Ness Ave. Tix/info: 415-861-8972; *www.nctcsf.org*

Robbie D.'s *Telekinesis* @ The Dark Room

Singer/performer Robbie D. presents *Telekinesis,* a haunted, dark, lush & dreamy cabaret. Slow, reverb-drenched cover versions of "Paper Roses" by Marie Osmond; some Dolly Parton songs; lots of Robbie D. original songs; incredible paper costumes and sets; weird stories; dark, moody lighting. Guest star: Roddy Bottum (Faith No More/Imperial Teen) on keyboards. Robbie D. has performed his *Telekinesis* cabaret for the past year in LA & NYC. He returns to SF where he co-created & performed at *Trannyshack* for 3 years. $12. 9pm. Also Sat., Nov. 27 at 10pm. The Dark Room, 2263 Mission St. (btwn 18th/19th). Tix/info: 415-401-7987; *www.robbied.com*

Sat 27

Langston Hughes' *Black Nativity* @ Lorraine Hansberry Theatre

Opening night: The Lorraine Hansberry Theatre continues its 24th season with its perennial holiday hit, Langston Hughes' *Black Nativity,* featuring award-winning gospel singer Robin Hodge-Williams (*Show Me; Anoint Me*) and many of the Bay Area's leading gospel artists. Hughes' gospel songs play is a soulful rendition of the Christmas story with extraordinary voices, exciting dance and glorious music. As always, new songs and staging have been added. $25-$30 Thu & Fri; $27-$32 Sat & Sun. 8pm (4pm Sun). Show runs thru Dec. 19. 620 Sutter St. (at Mason). Tix/info: 415-474-8800; *www.lhtsf.org*

Other Cinema @ ATA Gallery

Other Cinema presents the second installment of its "Hillbillies & Hobos" suite, a 3-premiere show of work on graffiti culture. Headlining is Bill Daniel's *Who Is Bozo Texino?,* a 50-min. personal doc on the history of train graffiti, as practiced by freight-hopping hobos and railworkers alike. Co-billed is *Piece by Piece,* Jon Parker's thorough survey of Bay Area "throw-ups" over the past 25 years, and Melinda Stone's short video on sidewalk stencils, *Underfoot*. $5. 8pm. Artists' Television Access, 992 Valencia St. Info: 415-824-3890; *www.othercinema.com*

WAX: A Musical Extravaganza @ SomArts

Mappointrecords.com & Dual Diagnosis Productions present: *WAX: A Musical Extravaganza*. A benefit for Providence House, a supportive housing project for people with disabling HIV, AIDS and other physical disabilities in Oakland. More than 20 DJs will spin Techno, House, Drum & Bass, and Breaks. More than 30 artists will install and display works. Documentary filming of the Global Underground DJ Culture. Two sound systems; two rooms of eye candy visuals, art, live performances and much more. Outdoor Smoking area and heated tented chill rooms. Refreshments and Smart bar provided all night. This is a no alcohol event. Featuring: Adam X, Nigel Richards, Jon Williams, DJ Race, DJ Dragon'fly, DJ Denise, Carlos Alfonso vs DJ Orionz, Valerie Sparks vs DJ Lurid, Simply Jeff, Omar Santana, Paul Anthony, The Develöper, DJ Ghost, Aaron Jæ vs Athena, Breakbeatbuddha, The Doctor Mercedes vs. W/MC Agustas, M.O.D. VS Andy P, DJ Elz vs Nick Nyquil, Reclipse and DJ Data. $15 presale and $20 at the door. 9pm till 7am. All ages welcome. SomArts, 934 Brannan St. Info/tix: 415-541-5033; 408-236-2188; 916-484-4024.

¡Club Papi! @ Space 550

Papi 8-Year Anniversary Celebration. Performing live: dance music legend Amber singing her #1 hits "Sexual" and "This is Your NIght." 3 caliente dance floors. DJs Mike, Chili D & Jorge Terez. Sexy Papi Dancers. Outside smokers lounge. Drink specials. Massages by Enchanted Hands. $20 cover. 10pm-4am. 21+ w/ID. 550 Barneveld. Info: 415-675-9763; *www.club-papi.com*

SF Hiking Club @ Pleasanton Ridge

Enjoy walking through oak-studded hills, past turtle ponds to a ridge with terrific views. It's a strenuous 16-mile hike with a 2,500-ft. elevation gain. Meet 8:30am under the large Safeway sign at Market & Dolores Streets. Info: 415-487-6410; *www.sfhiking.com*

Sun 28

Gobble Gobble @ The Eagle Tavern

Special guest Dr. Carol Queen joins emcees Manley Lennox and Sister Kitty Catalyst OCP for *Gobble Gobble*, a beer/beverage bust w/dinner to benefit The Center For Sex & Culture and The AIDS Hero Awards. Raffle-o-porno tickets $2 each or 3 for $5. Hundred$ in prizes & give-a-ways. Kneepads optional. Kink welcome. Prizes for tourists! Free condoms & lube from the BLOW project (Beautiful Lips On Whistles to blow away hate crimes). Remember: safer sex is hot sex! The Center For Sex & Culture provides non-judgmental, sex-positive sexuality education and support to diverse populations by means of classes, workshops, social gatherings, and hands=on, practical skills-building events. BLOW is a grassroots campaign using the safety whistle as a symbol to empower against any hate crimes. Hate crimes start with ideas of intolerance and escalate into violence based on religious and moral high grounds. Education stops hate. $8 beer/beverage bust w/dinner. 3-6pm. SF Eagle, 12th & Harrison.

Altered Place Settings @ Victorian Englander House

Altered Place Settings, two different concerts by Seth Montfort, piano. 1. Apollo & the Puritans Mozart (Sonata in C, K.330) & shorter works by Schubert, Chopin, Schumann, Brahms, Satie, Dvorak, MacDowell, Beach, Debussy, Ravel, Faure & Ponce 3pm (doors open 2:30pm). $7-$12. 2. Dvorak & the American Indianists Native American Indian inspiration in Dvorak's American Suite & works by Farwell, Troyer, Cadman, Copland/Bernstein, Bowles, Guastavino & Villa-Lobos. 5pm (doors open 4:30). $7-$12. 807 Franklin St. @ Turk. Tix/info: 415-362-6080; www.sfclassical-music.com

Mon 29

Brian d'Arcy James @ Empire Plush Room

Tony Nominee Brian d'Arcy James (currently starring in Irvin Berlin's White Christmas now playing at the Curran Theatre) makes his Empire Plush Room debut with the release of his CD *From Christmas Eve to Christmas Morn*. An evening of your favorite holiday music. Mr James has been seen on Broadway in *Sweet Smell of Success, Titanic, Blood Brothers, Carousel* as well as the first national tour of *Les Miserables*. 8pm. $25 plus 2-drink minimum. 8pm. 21+w/ID. Empire Plush Room, The York Hotel, 940 Sutter St. (btwn Leavenworth/Hyde). Tix: 415-885-2800; *www.ticketweb.com*. Info: *www.briand-james.com; www.plushroom.com*



Sweet Pam (left) relives precious Cockettes moments. See Thursday.



John Gruenwald

"Verso, Placing Heaven over Earth," color etching by John Gruenwald, part of his work at Tinhorn Press/Gallery. See Thursday.

Tue 30

Jack Donahue @ Empire Plush Room

Fresh from sold-out appearances across the nation, Jack Donahue will be performing songs from Johnny Mercer to Suzanne Vega, introducing San Franciscans to his unique way with music we all know and love. The Chicago Sun-Times raved: "Possessed of a beautiful voice, taste beyond his years . . . the handsome New Yorker shows that this sophisticated art form is not just alive and well, but thriving." $20-$25 plus 2-drink minimum. 8pm. 21+w/ID. Nov. 30-Dec. 4. Tix: 415-885-2800; www.ticketweb.com. Info: www.jackdonahue.com

Sondre Lerche @ Slim's

Young Norwegian singer-songwriter sensation Sondre Lerche (*Faces Down*) returns to the US in support of his second album, *Two Way Monologue* (Astralwerks), featuring vividly melodic songs. With supporting act The Golden Republic (formerly The People), influenced by '70s glam rock and '80s new wave, punk, garage and soul. $17. 8pm. 333 11th St. Tix: 415-255-0333; email sales@slims-sf.com

Wed 1

Rob Anderson's *Rattlesnake in a Moving Car* @ Main Library

World AIDS Day Observance: Acclaimed artist Rob Anderson discusses his creative work and its relationship to HIV in "Reflections of Today & Yesterday," a World AIDS Day Observance held in conjunction with the exhibition *Rattlesnake in a Moving Car: Live with HIV* at the James C. Hormel Gay and Lesbian Center. Anderson's story of HIV survival is told through the portraits and words of people living longtime with HIV. His dynamic art installation transforms portraiture into a testament of survival. Free. 6pm. Main Library, Lower Level, Latino/Hispanic Community Meeting Room. Info: *www.sfpl.org*

GLBT Member Led Forum @ Commonwealth Club

The Commonwealth Club hosts a GLBT Member Led Forum organizing meeting to identify topics and speakers relating to the GLBT community and of interest to the Club's membership; participants will be invited to produce quarterly events at the Club. The Forum, open to both Commonwealth Club members and the Bay Area GLTB community, will be chaired by John E. Lazar and John Lewis who produced the successful GLBT Spirituality Forum in May that included Rabbi Denise Eger, Rev. Troy Perry, and Christian de la Huerta. This GLBT Member Led Forum will be a portal for the community into the Club, as well as a welcoming gesture on the part of the Club toward the community. The 101-year-old public affairs club is a leading presenter of public-affairs programs featuring world-renowned speakers and leaders. 5-6:30pm. 595 Market St. Info: John Lazar, 415-394-7100, x322; *www.commonwealthclub.org*

The Riot Group's *Pugilist Specialist* @ Magic Theatre Northside

Opening night: Chantal Arts, Theatre Ltd., The Magic Theatre and Trellis Partners present The Riot Group, a young, fast-rising theatre troupe, in 25-year-old playwright Adriano Shaplin's *Pugilist Specialist*. Four highly trained American Marines are assigned the task of eliminating a troublesome Middle Eastern leader. This psychological thriller unfolds in a series of field recordings, detailing the planning, execution and mishandling of modern political assassination, and exploring the mentalities of people who give, and receive, orders. $20 special opening night; $28 Tue.-Thu.; $34 Fri. & Sat. $15 student/senior. 8pm (3pm Sun.). Magic Theatre, Northside, Building D, Fort Mason. Tix/info: 415-441-8822; *www.magictheatre.org*



Christy Funsch

A member of the Funsch Dance Experience solos in *Boy Blue* at EXIT on Taylor. See Thursday

Thu 2

Renaissance OPENHOUSE @ Jon Sims Center

Jon Sims Center for the Arts (JSC), an all-ages, accessible art space that supports the artistic expressions of the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender experience, presents *Renaissance OPENHOUSE*. JSC has been experiencing an intense period of artistic activity and will be celebrating a renaissance of new, queer performance in San Francisco's South of Market (SoMa) neighborhood. Delicious food, beverage and spectacular performances by dancer/choreographer Alma Esperanza Cunningham, dyke rocker Lynn Breedlove, and homo hop sensations Deep Dickollective. Free. 6:30-8:30pm. 1519 Mission St. (btwn 11th St & So. Van Ness). Info: 415-554-0402; *www.jonsimsctr.org*

Pam Tent's *Midnight at the Palace* @ City Lights Booksellers

City Lights celebrates the release of *Midnight at the Palace: My Life As A Fabulous Cockette*, with author Pam Tent (aka Sweet Pam) in person, presenting a slideshow, reading and reception/party. Come hear the inside story of the rise and fall of the Cockettes, SF's legendary SF performance troupe, as told by one of its founding members. Plus wine & song. 7pm. City Lights Booksellers & Publishers, 261 Columbus Ave.

Boy Blue @ EXIT on Taylor

Boy Blue, solos for men from the Funsch Dance Experience. Plus wee *little wing*, a charming play on phrasing by Artistic Director Christy Funch. In *Boy Blue*, men explore the physicality of solitude. The sound score includes hip hop, live vocals, and solo Baroque violin. Funsch has shown her work in NYC, Phoenix, Toronto, San Francisco and Santa Cruz. $10-$15. 8pm. Thu.-Sat., Dec. 2-4. EXIT on Taylor Theater, 277 Taylor St. Tix/info: 415-902-5371; *www.funschdance.com*

The Santaland Diaries @ Shelton Theater

The Santaland Diaries by David Sedaris, adapted for the stage by Joe Mantello. Directed by Richard Ryan. Starring John Michael Beck and Cathy Fithian. David Sedaris' brilliant evocation of Christmas as seen from the other side, through the eyes of a Macy's elf, returns to the Shelton. Our hero, David the elf, will have you bending over with laughter. San Francisco actor John Michael Beck returns to fill the pointed shoes of everyone's favorite elf for the third straight year! Plus: *Season's Greetings*. Follow the tale of a housewife whose Christmas traditions are slowly being altered against her will. Just how far will she go to return things to the proper order? $20 General Admission. 8pm Thu-Sat; 2pm & 7pm Sun. Thru Dec. 19. Shelton Theater, 533 Sutter St. (at Powell). Tix: 415-820-1565; *www.steinbeckpresents.org*

John Gruenwald @ Tinhorn Press/Gallery

Opening reception: Unique proofs, states, monotypes with lithograph and etching by John Gruenwald. Free. 5:30-8pm. Artist discussion at 7pm. Show runs thru Jan. 9, 2005. Tinhorn Press/Gallery, 511 Laguna St. Info: 415-621-1292; *www.tinhorn-gallery.com*

Self Defense Seminar @ The Center

Triangle Martial Arts Association and the Lesbian Gay Bisexual and Transgender Community Center of San Francisco will host a community self-defense seminar. As part of a joint effort by TMAA and The Center to empower the community, to raise awareness regarding personal safety, and to provide practical measures for avoiding or getting out of trouble, this seminar commonly known as EZ-Defense With Pride Self-Defense Seminar is perfectly suited to self-defense novices as well as those more experienced. The seminar is low impact, fun, and highly informative.$25 sliding donation (NOTAFLOF). 7-9:30pm. SF LGBT Community Center, 1800 Market St.

WANNA SUBMIT?

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The right stuff

Zeffirelli's 'Callas Forever' onscreen

by Stephanie von Buchau

When Franco Zeffirelli's extravagant, overstuffed, overwrought, absolutely fabulous *Callas Forever,* which has been on the gay film-fest circuit for at least two years before finally getting US distribution, played one of those venues, a critic of a certain age reminded viewers of the days when the fate of a gay romantic relationship hung on the loaded question: "Callas or Tebaldi?" The only correct answer was, "Callas."

Zeffirelli's fantasy, an imagining of Maria's last days, takes place in 1977, the year of her death in Paris. Larry Kelly (Jeremy Irons, in a trendy ponytail that does nothing to diminish his mature scrumptiousness) plays a former Callas manager now reduced to flacking a rock band called, "Bad Dream." He lands in Paris, hooks up with a languid deaf artist (Jay Rodan, a typical Zeffirelli rent boy) and decides to rescue Maria (Fanny Ardant) from her self-imposed exile on the tony Avenue Georges-Mandel.

According to the screenplay by Zeffirelli and Martin Sherman (*Bent*), the death of her brutal, faithless lover Aristotle Onassis in 1975 has sent Callas on a downward spiral. Insomnia and other ills are overmedicated by careless French doctors, and she spends her time, dressed in frothy lingerie and bare feet, in bed or playing poker with her chauffeur and bodyguard. (The film's costumes are designed by three of Italy's best, but Callas' ultra-chic clothes are by Karl Lagerfeld of Chanel.)

Kelly and Sarah, a British journalist played with tart wit by Joan Plowright (who appeared in Zeffirelli's previous film, the underrated *Tea with Mussolini*), conspire to rouse Maria from her melancholy. Larry has a great idea — in fact, so great, I'm surprised nobody else thought of it — to film the still-beautiful singer in complete operas lip-synced to her early recordings. Most of the Callas recordings used in the film (available on EMI's soundtrack CD with additional music by Alessio Vlad) are from the early 1950s.

Anyone used to later remakes, when Maria's voice had begun to deteriorate, should be bowled over, for not only is the impeccable, expressive musicianship there, but her distinctive soprano sounds fresh and lustrous, without the clicks and wobbles we got used to just a decade later. In fact, if you are not a Callas fan because of the wobbles, try the soundtrack and watch the film as Fanny Ardant expertly lip-syncs and, even more important, somehow channels Maria's rapt intensity, producing that magical oxymoron, imperious innocence.

Midnight shows

Larry and Sarah get Callas outside her apartment, soaking up the adulation of fans in various hotels and restaurants, and finally filming *Carmen*, an opera she never sang on stage but recorded in Paris in 1964 with Nicolai Gedda and Georges Pretre. She's not in great voice, but the role lies low enough to minimize her vocal problems. Ardant is a devastating Carmen. Her screen tenor (Gabriel Garko) is another piece of Zeffirelli eyecandy who may be enamored of the diva, but she doesn't give him a chance, descending on him like a sex-crazed vampire and scaring him half to death. This part of the film and the midnight hallucinations in which Callas hears and sees herself singing famous roles of her past are pure Zeffirelli popcorn, and may keep film purists from taking the movie seriously. *Casablanca* it is not. I don't take it "seriously" either, but I think that may be Zeffirelli's point.

As we have seen at San Francisco Opera, taking opera too seriously is fatal. Opera is not about relevance to our daily lives, it is about dreams, shiver-your-timbers sex, extravagant, heart-swelling fantasies. It's the one performing art form, even more than classical ballet, that lets you soar into whatever demented realm you desire. Yet it takes unorthodox voices and personalities like Callas to fuel those fantasies.

Callas had all the right stuff operatically, and a real-life story right out of the tabloids to go with it. No wonder she remains a gay icon more than a quarter-century after her death. As Zeffirelli, longtime friend, artistic colleague and part-time necrophiliac, puts it, "I wanted to show her search for absolute perfection and integrity. How much she suffered and gave up. What it cost her to give us such beauty. The price that she — Maria Kalogeropoulos, born in a New York City tenement — had to pay to become Maria Callas." *Now playing.* ▼



Maria Callas (Fanny Ardant) is rescued from her self-imposed exile.



Catherine Ashmore

'In Act II, everybody is judged by how they taste. It's an orgy of gluttony!'

Nutcracker!

◀ *Arts cover*

more profound," he said. "We perform the complete score with no messing around with edits or repeats. As with *Swan Lake*, we've performed *Nutcracker!* both live — with a reduced orchestration — and to a fully orchestrated recorded tape. Unfortunately, economics dictate that we use the tape here, but I can assure you it is of very high quality."

One of Mark Morris' main themes in *The Hard Nut*, his alternative *Nutcracker*, which has played several times at UC Berkeley, is the maturation of Clara, the little girl who experiences the magical transformations of Christmastime. Her wedding dance with the Nutcracker Prince is an off-beat piece of serious choreography in what is usually a classically stiff, show-off pas de deux. Bourne's second act is described by the *Daily Telegraph* as "a delirious camp riot of pink, oozing sexiness and an *Absolutely Fabulous* sense of girly satire."

"I love Mark Morris, incidentally," he said, "but I had not seen *Hard Nut* before revising this production. I was influenced by David Lean's *Oliver Twist*," in the bleak opening orphanage sequence from which Clara and her friends escape. "Ashton's *Les Patineurs* was an influence [in the Snow Scene on skates], though I mostly used the old musicals of Sonje Henie for both the cutesy skating and the character of Princess Sugar, our Sugarplum Fairy.

"Other references to look out for: Busby Berkeley musicals (we end up dancing on a giant layer cake), MGM Technicolor musicals, Marilyn Monroe (the pink, fluffy Marshmallow Girls), Terry Thomas (a cad-like character who drips like an ice-cream sundae) and 1950 musclemen physique mags, where Clara discovers her sexuality and the male form."

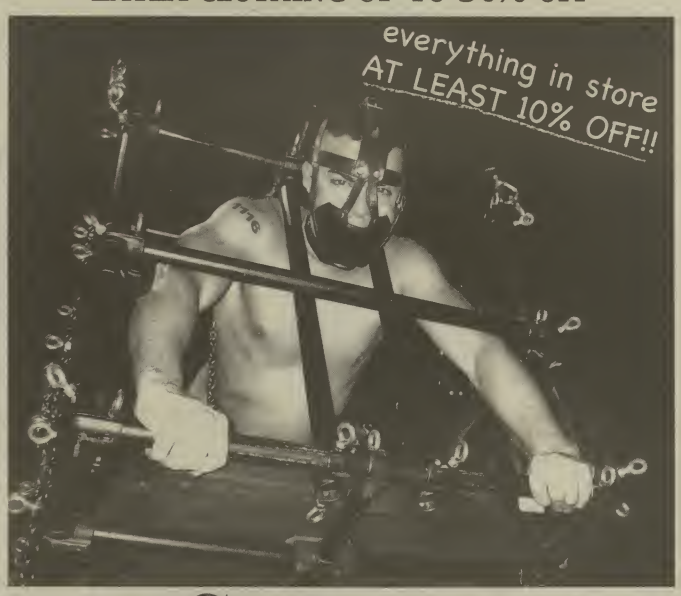
I had read that Bourne thought that *Nutcracker* often catered to little girls and their Moms, leaving fathers and other men bored. Remembering the incredibly erotic frisson of the all-male *Swan Lake*, I asked Bourne how sexy this *Nutcracker!* was going to be.

"The production is definitely a family show to be enjoyed by everyone, but it certainly has a big following in the UK gay community. On one level, it is about growing up and first love. Things everyone can relate to. And, yes, it is sexy, too. In Act II's Sweetieland, everybody is judged by how they taste, so there is a dance, the "Waltz of the Flowers," where the inhabitants literally taste and lick each other — an orgy of gluttony, if you will!"

Does that sound scrumptious, or what? ▼

Matthew Bourne's *Nutcracker!* Nov. 26-Dec. 5, 3 p.m. at Zellerbach Hall ($36/$52/$74). Tickets: (510) 642-9988.

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Holidays in leather

Joy to the fund-givers among us

by Mister Marcus

The holiday season for this year officially opens tomorrow and all sorts of parties, celebrations, shows, toy drives and fundraisers are on the agenda. When it comes to dedication, volunteerism and opening up purses and wallets, leather people come through again and again. Your donations support the many Thanksgiving dinners that will be provided for the homeless, the ill, seniors and others who have fallen onto hard times. Because of your caring, lives and dreams are saved.

The major leather event this weekend is happening in Toronto when Remi Collette passes his sash to the next Mr. Toronto Leather. The Toronto contest is one of the best leather competitions in North America. It's safe to say our leather Canadian leather brothers and sisters are near the top in the rankings when it comes to leather contests. Toronto, Montreal, Ottawa and the eastern provinces go above and beyond with their leather celebrations. There are those out there that wonder if a Canadian leather man will ever win one of the major international leather titles. The same is true about Chicago. Frankly, there *are* many out there who hope a Canadian or a Chicagoan will someday win. Time will tell.

Last weekend, the DC Eagle in the nation's capital celebrated their anniversary and during the weekend proceedings, they staged their Mr. DC Eagle Leather competition. That sassy Wayne Nesbitt emcee'd the proceedings on Saturday night for three contestants who faced judges Jason Hendrix, Brian Kent (Mr. NY Eagle), Jimmy Madden (owner, Bike Stop in Philly), Darrell Moyers (Mr. DC Eagle 2001), and American Leather Man Robert Napolitano. The three contestants (Scott Jones, Bennett Long and David Phillips) went through the paces of the competition and when tally masters Patti Brown and Glenda Ryder finished their work, Scott Jones was named the winner with David Phillips the runner-up. Mr. Jones advances to compete for the IML 2005 title next May in Chicago. A victory brunch was held on Sunday.



Scott Jones was chosen Mr. DC Eagle in Washington on Saturday, November 20 during that bar's anniversary weekend. He advances to compete at IML 2005 in Chicago next May.

Veni Stewart

Inter-Club Fund update

No one in the Inter-Club Fund bothers to send out press releases (harrumph!), but a request from Tony Koester is how I found out that at the Motorcycle Awards ceremony on Saturday, February 19, a raffle is being held at $5 a pop and you could win two nights at the Mirage in Las Vegas, or, a 15" flat screen plasma TV, or a DVD/CD player, or a $100 gift certificate for JC Penny and/or Safeway.

You can contact Mr. Koester by email to: tony.koester@sbcglobal.net.

Golden Gate Guards

Last Saturday night, Nov. 20th, the Golden Gate Guards MC celebrated their club anniversary with a gala reception at Ellard Hall in the Castro. At least 250 people were on hand to imbibe on munchies and cocktails. All those affiliated with the club were presented and special awards were given out to above-average supporters. I didn't get the complete list of officers (new and some re-elected), but am sure THEY can fill you in. Congratulations!

Earlier in the week, Scott Peterson, manager of the Powerhouse Bar was the surprise guest at a birthday party in the bar put together by his loyal staff. Scott won the Unsung Hero Award at the Mr. SF Leather Contest last year and still continues in his quiet way to do all the good things he's always been doing in our community!

From the literary guild

Whiling away the hours in Hawaii, Joseph Bean has penned yet another tome in his long list of books. This one is called: "Soaked! The Watersports Handbook for Men" Early reviews say it's "a delightful combination of technique, discussion and explanation and includes wet and wild stories about pissin' men and the places they pissed." The book also contains illustrations of Joseph's erotic cuttings. Published by the

next page ▶

EVENTURES IN LEATHER

Wednesday, November 24

Leather Buddies joust around tonight at 933 Harrison. Strict dress code, no white sneakers, no cologne. Call 777-HEAD.

Saturday, November 27

The 15 Association monthly play party at the usual (secret) location. $15 donation. Guests must accompany. Call 673-0452 or click on www.the15association.org.

Saturday, December 4

Omar & Ho's annual Xmas party from 1800 to Midnight at 407 Sanchez, #3140. To benefit the AEF.

SF Leather Daddy Doug Mezzacoppo celebrates his 42nd birthday at the Edge today from 1600 to 1900 which is a Mama's Toy Drive Benefit. Bring a new, unwrapped toy for Camp Sunburst.

Sunday, December 5

Holiday Leather Brunch at Harvey's from 1100 to 1300 with entertainment, more raffles, silent auction, tribute to unsung heroes and all to benefit PRC. Tickets $20 advance, $25 door. Available at the Edge.

Sunday & Monday, December 5 & 6

Donna Sachet's annual "Songs of the Season" show at the Empire Plush Room of the York Hotel. Don't miss this one featuring Irene Soderberg (Sunday show), Sharon McNight & Kim Kuzma (Monday show) among other talents.

Tuesday, December 7

Bondage Buddies get all tied up at 933 Harrison tonight. Doors open from 2000 to 2300, play late. $12 donation. For info, call 777-HEAD or surf to www.blowbuddies.com/bondage.html.

Friday, December 10

Aluminum Forest Xmas Party @ Marlena's tonight from 2000 to 1200. Bring a donation for the AEF. RSVP to: PantherBlk@aol.com.

Hunting and pecking

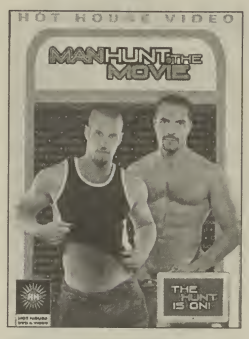
by John F. Karr

It's got a clever title: *A Rim with a View.* And it's built around a clever idea: it's a porn-fomercial for a cleverly constructed rim chair. It becomes obvious, however, that the clear Lucite toilet seat with galvanized steel legs isn't real. And even more obvious that the movie built around it isn't really clever.



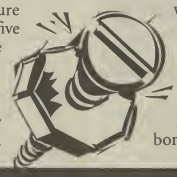
For all the time director Hands Solo wastes trying to be funny, and for all the rush he's in to get to sucking and fucking, it's hardly even a rimming movie. True, the combination of see-through seat, strong lighting and great camera angles crams some juicy rimming right in our faces. But not for very long. The movie promises to wallow in a fetish but reneges. The guys are a sexy bunch, a little funkier than the standard brand of assembly-line porn star. They're jockstrap-clad, heftily dicked, frequently foreskinned and quite enthusiastic, in a nasty way. But they're undermined by the movie's consistent cheesiness and amateur construction. The salesmanship for the RimPerfect Rim Chair is of the used-car variety, and the director's attempts to be jaunty include an unsettling amount of editing, and a torturous amount of excruciating music.

Your heartbeat will quicken at the initial sight of fulsome buns spreading apart as they settle onto the chair, revealing a pink pucker that winks cheerily. But you'll soon be wincing as a kazoo-worthy composition is clanged out six deadly times in a row on a cheap-model Casio. Since I liked the guys, I tried to rise above it. But by the third scene I was fast-forwarding to deaden the musical assault, and finally had to give up. I did get one chuckle at the movie's website, where Mr. Solo regrets not being able to work again with Blade Thompson, the producer of his first movie. "Blade had been incommunicado for the last few years," Solo writes, "and will be released December 31, 2004." *A Rim with a View.* Clever idea. Clumsy, misguided filmmaking. *www.rimperfect.com*



Hooking up

Another movie with a product to peddle is the new Hot House feature *Manhunt.theMovie.* Its five scenes dramatize the connections that supposedly can be made through an actual online hook-up site. Buy the movie and you get a month's free membership. It's a pity if the boys to be met there have as little interest in foreplay or a friendly kiss-or-cuddle aftermath as those depicted here.



Karrnal Knowledge

But it's churlish of me to quibble with a movie that's basically successful. *Manhunt.theMovie* was directed by Steven Scarborough, with collaborators who display the usual Hot House skill. The lighting, videography, and music are fine. There's moments when the editing could be more generous. The final segment, with Dick Wolf squatting on a dildo so hairy top Jon Galt can cream all over his face, seems truncated. And a truly hot session with lovers Andy Hunter and Corbin Michaels loses what has been an assured build-up when their hook-up arrives for a threeway. The doorbell rings, and the next thing we see is some guy getting slammed fore and aft by our boys. There's no how d'ya do, size 'em up, undress 'em and engage 'em. We can't even see who it is! A potentially sensational session is sacrificed for short vignettes of the boys in various combinations. Even with a jet-propelled orgasm from Hunter, it's a let-down from the scene's beginning.

True, Hunter and Michaels were allowed the movie's most extended foreplay, frolicking in their tighty-whities. The boner tenting Michaels' briefs seems magnificent, and the boner poking out of Hunter's obviously is. Jees, what a pole this guy's got. Robust Troy Punk and Alex LeMonde share the movie's best chemistry. They're so hot to trot that of course they'd skip the preliminaries. The fourth scene showcases mature stud Arpad Miklos. Hirsute and solid, he's a beautifully masculine guy with a suave, strong manner that tames the particularly nasty Owen Hawk. Miklos splats a man's load right across Owen's face for a strong climax.

The opening scene, with handsome, built Collin O'Neal topping tight-bodied Andrew Rubio, offers a standard menu of suck/rim/fuck (lucky the lad who gets to gulp O'Neal's classic cock) before settling on a lengthy Reverse Cowboy that's quite stimulating. Wowser O'Neal shoots high. The effective quality of the fucking in *Manhunt.theMovie* is affirmed by the number of PWPs its bottoms enjoy: that's Pops While Porked. For those keeping score, today's count is one pick, one pan. *www.HotHouse.com* ▼

Mister Marcus

◀ *previous page*

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Dot, dot, dot . . . dish!

The town was all abuzz last week when the *Recorder* came out with a headline about a *very* prominent person In the Imperial Court system being sought in a murder case a few years ago as a witness. The royals (imperials and ducals) were aghast at the news. Stay tuned.

Andy Rose, my football buddy and friend, is breaking the trend of people moving to Palm Springs. Andy, the faithful Pittsburgh Steeler fan, may just be making the big move — are you ready? — to Brazil! One of his ex's in these parts also announced he's "tired" of his current marital nest, so look for one of Mama's "boys" to be out "on the market" soon. And so it goes . . .

With the holiday season upon us, things will be a bit quiet in the coming weeks, but there are plenty of fundraisers coming your way. In the meantime, keep living, keep laughing, keep loving and keep volunteering — just do it in leather! ▼



Mister Marcus

Toronto Leatherman 2004 Remi Collette will pass his sash to a successor this coming weekend in Toronto. Remi is a former San Franciscan and a bartender at Daddy's Bar before he married IML 1979 David Kloss.

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Mixing Christmas rhapsodies

Music for the holiday season out on CD

by Jason Victor Serinus

The prospect of auditioning over 30 holiday discs did not immediately thrill. Thankfully, I soon discovered that the spirit of unconditional love that is the true essence of Christmas has again inspired an entire hosiery department's worth of noteworthy stocking-stuffers.



***Christmas Rhapsody*, John Bayless (Koch)** Gay pianist John Bayless has assembled a huge discography of piano arrangements of everything from Puccini to the Beatles. At last turning his attention to Christmas, he provides colorful, virtually symphonic treatments of everyone's best-loved Christmas melodies. Thanks to impeccable taste, positive spirits and infectious wit, Bayless' inventive renditions combine uncommon beauty with heartfelt love for the season. A total winner.

***All Is Calm, All Is Bright*, D.C. Anderson (LML Music)** New York cabaret performer D.C. Anderson is blessed with one of the sweeter voices on the planet, but his gentle treatments of songs by Stephen Sondheim, Fred Ebb, and others show tendencies toward syrupy sentiment. Especially noteworthy are the three-voiced multitrack on "Infant Holy," the whistling duet on the "Up on a Mayberry Housetop" medley, and the relief provided by humorous numbers.

***Weihnachtshistorie*, Johann Rosenmüller - Cantus Cölln (Harmonia Mundi)** Born in Leipzig 66 years before J.S. Bach, Rosenmüller's career as a composer was interrupted in 1655 when he had to flee the city after being charged with pederasty. Dismissed from all his posts and imprisoned, he eventually fled to Hamburg, then Venice, where he later renewed his career. This CD, an approximation of an Italian-style Renaissance Christmas in Leipzig, features Rosenmüller's beautiful sacred music for the holiday season. With Konrad Junghänel conducting pre-eminent early music ensemble Cantus Cölln, the minimally accompanied (violin, violincello, organ) performances are exemplary.

***Swales and Angels*, Beth Anderson (New World Records)** How New York composer Anderson, ensconced across from the Brooklyn Museum, manages to capture the hometown, country air of the Kentucky swales (meadows or marshes where a lot of plants grow together) of her youth underscores the inexplicable miracle of composing genius. "March Swale" could easily be a holiday tune, its comforting nature beautifully conveyed by Belgium's Rubio String Quartet. Contemporary music specialist Joseph Kubera and the Quartet play Anderson's Piano Concerto, with others joining in to perform repertoire heard in her all-Anderson Weill Recital Hall concert. Anderson's simple, unpretentious music, timeless in its warmth and understated modernity, is perfectly suited for Christmas.



***Peace Round, A Christmas Celebration*, Yellowjackets (Heads Up)** With two Grammy-nominated albums to their credit, jazz ensemble Yellowjackets are distinguished by inventiveness and good spirits. Featuring keyboardist Russell Ferrante plus others on sax, bass and drums, these mild performances have a delightful, homey feel. Enjoy the imaginative, spacey intro to Joseph Mohr's arrangement of "Silent Night," and the mellowness of it all.

***A Leroy Anderson Christmas* (Decca)** What would an American Christmas be like without Arthur Fiedler and the Boston Pops' classic rendition of Leroy Anderson's "Sleigh Ride?" As myth-reinforcing as a Norman Rockwell graphic, Harvard graduate Anderson's delightful compositions and arrangements made him the American composer most performed by American orchestras in '53. The disc features Anderson conducting his three Suites of Carols for Brass Choir, String Orchestra, and Woodwind Ensemble, plus his joyful medley "A Christmas Festival."

***Christmas Regrooved* (Koch)** What a kick! The subtitle, "Holiday classics re-imagined, re-mixed and re-grooved by some of the most influential artists of the electronic music world," hardly prepares you for the fun. These sometimes hilarious remixes convert Santa's chimney into a post-psychedelic disco palace equipped



with every strobe-light, hip-hop, platter-spinning effect imaginable. Joseph Jaime, EROS, Jay Atwood, Domingues & Ives, and Mystic Quintet are among the artists who contribute 14 fabulous tracks.

***Tchaikovsky's Greatest Hit: The Ultimate Nutcracker* (BMG)** Eugene Ormandy's mono Philadelphia Orchestra rendition of Tchaikovsky's sugar-coated family fantasy, written by the part of his psyche able to transcend the torture of internalized homophobia, will do just fine. Fun follows in the form of a droll *Nutcracker Suite* played by the unlikely Modern Mandolin Quartet. Delivery the ultimate spoof, Spike Jones and the City Slickers crack the nut with decidedly square, mildly irreverent but appealing whimsy. The First Piano Quartet's novel renditions of the "Dance of the Reed Flutes" and "Waltz of the Flowers" cap the enjoyment. ▼

Camp and classic contenders

Divine DVDs to consider for holiday giving

by Tavo Amador

Holiday gift-shopping can be daunting, but DVDs provide wonderful, one-stop selections. For film buffs, the event of the year is the newly issued *Gone With the Wind* ('39), classic Hollywood's most famous achievement. The saga of Scarlett, Rhett, Melanie and Ashley is familiar, but it looks splendid in the new transfer. The great extras include a still-radiant Olivia de Havilland discussing how she won the part of Melanie, Victor Fleming replacing the original director, the openly gay George Cukor, and the audience's reaction at the Atlanta premiere. Another shows how Vivien Leigh became Scarlett, and includes screen-tests of disappointed hopefuls: a lively reading from Paulette Goddard, a poor one from newcomer Susan Hayward, a worse one from starlet Lana Turner, and a silent, tired, amused Tallulah Bankhead, smoking a cigarette while posing. Documentaries on Leigh and Clark Gable are also part of the set.

Bette Davis, an early favorite to play Scarlett, went to her grave claiming that her failure to get the part was one of Tinseltown's greatest blunders. A decade later, when a back injury forced Claudette Colbert out of *All About Eve* ('50), Davis got Margo Channing, the role of a lifetime in the verbally wittiest film ever made. We all know Eve's (Anne Baxter) story, but extras include a recent interview with sole surviving star Celeste Holm, and past discussions with Davis.

Joan Crawford was another contender for Scarlett, but she kept her disappointment quiet while forging a remarkable career. One of her later hits is *Sudden Fear* ('52). She's a wealthy San Francisco heiress threatened by younger husband Jack Palance and his mistress, Gloria Grahame. The star gives a very operatic performance, but try not to watch. Sensational location shots.

Eve gave Marilyn Monroe a small, showy part, and the blonde legend also can be seen in a new collection including her best: *Gentlemen Prefer Blondes* ('52), *How To Marry a Millionaire* ('53), *Bus Stop* ('55), *The Seven Year Itch* ('55), and worst: *There's No Business Like Show Business* ('54). Extras include *Marilyn Monroe: The Final Days.*

Marilyn died young, but her more successful contemporary, Elizabeth Taylor, survived and aged. For those who know her only for her tireless advocacy on behalf of people with AIDS, she was often a splendid actress and an incomparable beauty. A newly issued *Elizabeth Taylor Collection* includes her charming ingenue in *Father of the Bride* ('50), directed by Vincente Minnelli, Liza's gay father; her ferocious Maggie opposite Paul Newman in the brilliantly acted but censored version of Tennessee Williams' *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof* ('58); and her first Oscar-winning performance, as Gloria Wanderous, "the slut of all time," in the trashy *Butterfield 8* ('60). Also available is her remarkable beach-bait for gay cousin Sebastian in Williams' *Suddenly, Last Summer* ('59), where she's billed over Katharine Hepburn and matches the older diva scene for scene.

Human nature

Taylor made AIDS a "respectable" cause, and in *Philadelphia* ('93), Tom Hanks made it human, playing a victim of the disease who is fired by his law firm. Denzel Washington is the attorney who defends him while confronting his homophobia. Hanks won his first Best Actor Oscar for his performance, and showed many people how moving opera could be, in an amazing scene in which he interprets Maria Callas' haunting rendition of "La Mama Morta" from *Andrea Chenier.* Terrence McNally captured what the disease does to longtime friends with his play *Love! Valor! Compassion!*, filmed in '97 with most of the New York cast repeating their stage roles. John Glover, Jason Alexander, and Steven Spinella give standout performances.

New Yorker film critic Pauline Kael once complained about the popularity of drag-queens-as-women parts, specifically referring to Lucille Ball in the movie musical *Mame* ('74). That ghastly picture was based on gay writer Patrick Dennis' novel *Auntie Mame*, adapted for the stage and filmed with the original star, Rosalind Russell, in '58. Russell's Mame Dennis was an icon to at least one generation of gay men, if for no other reason than her remarkably flamboyant clothes, designed by the gay Walter Plunkett. The new DVD shows why the character has a permanent place in the gay pantheon.

Another performer in our pantheon is the incomparable Charles Busch. His 2004 movie *Die, Mommy, Die!*, in which he stars with Jason Priestly, has its roots in '50s and '60s vehicles for Crawford, Davis, Bankhead, and Hayward, but he gives them a contemporary, campy twist.

Finally, for those who like their suspense perversely humorous but not campy, Alfred Hitchcock is likely to please. A new collection of some of his most interesting work includes the homoerotic thriller *Strangers on a Train* ('50), with beautiful Farley Granger finding himself befriended by the charming but deranged Robert Walker, who blithely plots a double murder. Their meeting is a classic gay pick-up scene from the era. Based on bisexual author Patricia Highsmith's dark novel. ▼



Rachmaninov

◀ page 33

Horowitz, and found even more to wonder in it. Hough's playing is as spectacular and nuanced, as plastic and insinuating in its gutsy rubatos, and charged with an even more feral intellect. His choice of the shorter, revised cadenza in the first movement in no way diminishes the piece's maximum impact.

Thrust off

With its clarity of textures and sense of ineluctable thrust, the Pletnev/Rostropovich recording, which I reviewed and admired here, went far to take the *Shine* (the hideous mad-pianist movie) off the piece. The problem with the piece has always been making it sound like more than craven exhibitionism for its own sake. By lending specific shape, color and, yes, meaning to every gesture in the gargantuan concerto, Hough and co. leave you as full as bedazzled. Confoundingly, the Apollonian intellect that infuses it makes it the most moving of the versions I know. The finale's accompanied cadenza is eye-crossingly exact and exhilarating.

The startlingly fast, driving solo-piano introduction of the Second makes it clear this is not going to be another emotional wallow in some of the most unashamedly beautiful music ever written for the instrument. Here, the delicacy of the playing (by fingers of Bessemer steel) works the singular magic of the "Russian crescendo," whereby the peaks of phrases are achieved by a softening of the sound.

The diamantine clarity of the playing doesn't compromise the warmth of the work, it accentuates it. This is a fast but not brusque or hasty Second, and its unrelenting sense of inner propulsion gives its lofty lines the elevation from which they profit most. For once you can feel it all without blushing.

It will take a lot more performances like these to give the First and Fourth concertos a place alongside their siblings. The musicians bring the same dignity and integrity to the First that they do to its more famous successors. Together they tease the furtive beauties out of the reticent Fourth Concerto, whose uneasily syncopated central Largo becomes one of the set's more spellbinding six minutes.

The *Paganini Rhapsody*, the latest and most cunning of the works, sounds every bit as "live" as the concertos and bristles with an unprecedented intellectual integrity. The composer's ingenuity elicits an excited response from the musicians, who pounce on it with almost indecent élan. I've never heard the piece shimmer so, so quiver with expectation. The Andante cantabile variation crests over it all in purest ecstasy. ▼

Born Rich

◀ page 34

says that coming into his money at 18 set off a period of depression. Midway through the film, Hornblower, uncertain at first if he wanted so public a role, strolls through the Grand Concourse of Grand Central Station, which his family built but no longer controls, as if an enormous weight had been lifted off his young shoulders.

Young rich women predictably have a harder time reconciling their unearned wealth with the normal frivolity of adolescence. Finance heiress Stephanie Ercklentz admits to trolling Madison Avenue for $600 handbags, and quitting an entry-level banking job when it threatened to cut into her late-night-party time with a posse of decadent friends. Christina Floyd, whose dad made his pile playing golf, confesses to a measure of guilt at hobnobbing at Long Island social clubs that still bar Jews and people of color. Incidentally, *Born Rich* documents that real money, except for the Las Vegas-based Weill fortune, remains East Coast money.

Ultimately, it takes a European-born aristocrat to utter the truly heretical thought. Cody Franchetti, whose hobby as a high-priced fashion model lands his puss on a billboard towering over Times Square, says the only way to live with unearned money is to do so utterly without guilt.

Filmmaker Johnson, who confesses that rubbing shoulders with his peers pricked his conscience and pushed his politics a tad leftward, says his next project is hopefully an equally unvarnished account of the plight of aging playboys. ▼

David Gere

◀ page 35

turned the electorate against us, I want to scream. Nobody could be more concerned than Keith and Jim about morality and spirituality. Keith smeared that spit on his body to make us stop being afraid of body fluids. Jim was trying to bottle sex and pleasure as an elixir that could heal. These guys are our priests. I wanted to honor their sense of divinity in the book.

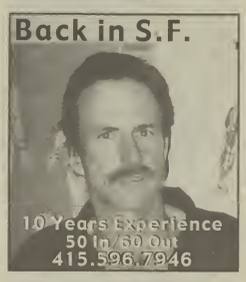
Joe Goode's *Remembering the Pool*, with its visitation from his dead friend, is a big favorite of mine, especially because the dead friend is invited into the piece by an angel who looks like a drag version of Marie Antoinette. She's hilarious. But what she says is also very deep. I mean, what happens to our friends when they die, that's the big question, right? I realized in the process of watching all these dances that gay men are some of the most deeply spiritual beings on the planet. Who else could even attempt to answer these questions?

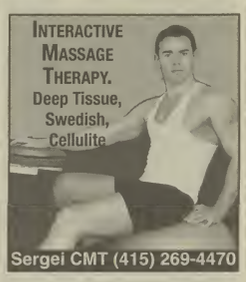
When I was near the end of writing the book, I contracted a horrible fever. I was on deadline, in my office at UCLA, after Midnight, and I was quivering. Before I knew it I was on the floor, like Kushner's Pryor Walter, and I felt that the ceiling was about to open up. I had a vision of my people, my friends, my lovers, my gay brethren, all suffering like I was at that moment, only worse. Something cleaved in me, it just broke open, and I got this incredible sense of the union of spirituality and sex, of ghostliness and hot, sweaty bodies, of priests and assholes, and the sense that this was what dances made in this epidemic are all about. Gay culture, evanescent. ▼



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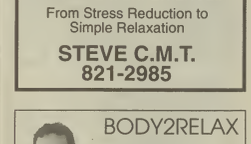


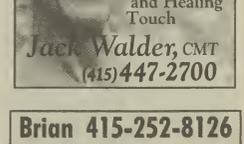
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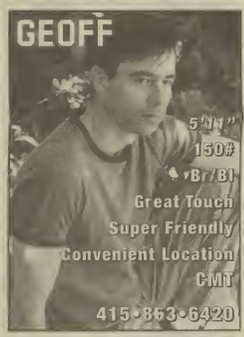












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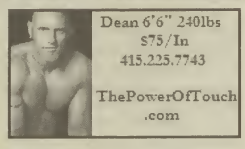








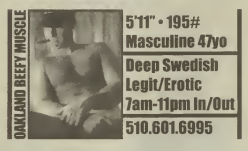
















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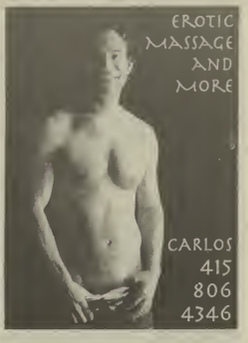












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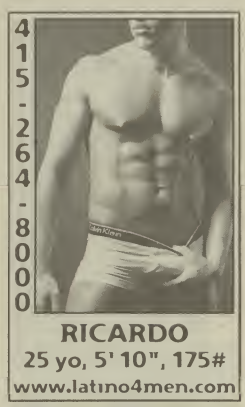
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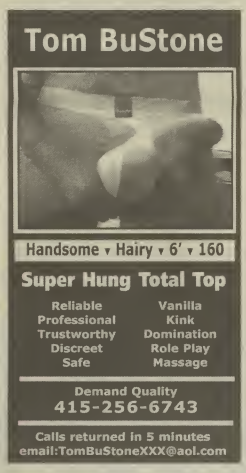


















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6'2"/160Lbs/Hung 7/Nice Guy/ Hot
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HORNY 21YO WM
HOT COLLEGE STUD
$120/Hr. Outcalls Only.
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You'll Remember My TV Ads For Gillette Sensor "The Best A Man Can Be." 6'3" 190 lbs, musc, Blnd/Brwn Naturally Smooth, 37 y/o
HUNG LIKE A CHAMPION
9.5 x 7 Cut Avail. 24 Hrs.
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STR8 MUSCULAR DOM!!!
5'9" 185# Bl/Bl 415-336-1863 Hot!
E50

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HOT 24 HUNG LATINO TOP
5'8" 150Lbs. Masculine, Shaved Head Kinky Sensual, No Attitude, Habla Espanol. Out Calls Only. Discreet.
415-414-0085. Big Men Welcome.
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DAVID 9X7UC TOP
6'2", 165#, VGL, Good Attitude
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GERMAN JOCK 24
Friendly Vers. 415 929-9224 Mike
E06-05

WORSHIP THIS STR8 C-CK
INTO GIRLS-NEED XTRA CASH
28 YRS- 5'10" - THICK 8"
OUTCALL ONLY 415-573-9767
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New Guy In Town, 6'2" 210 Lbs 33W 46c, 26y.o. Musc, Jock Top! Will Stick It Where U Need It! Call
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Sugar Daddies Also Needed. Call Now.
E48

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KEVLAR
Specializing In Unique Fantasies
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Hot, Hung, Cleancut
SURFER
5'11" 165 Bl/Gr 28 Tan Smooth 6pk
Brandon 415-414-0238 Top/Out Only
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FAT TOOL
23YO Whiteboy, Masc, Good Looking, Lean/Toned Build 5'5" 130# • Brn/Brn Hung 7.5"x7+" Thick, Cut
Call Ethan At 415-596-8035
Http://Whovian.hn.org/ethan
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SAN JOSE BOY
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27, 5'11", 165#, Blond Hair
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21 5'11" 140 SMOOTH
RYAN 415-713-7098
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TOP-IN-TOPS
Thick Ten Plus
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Topsintops@yahoo.com
415-845-8042 Matt
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I'm Looking For Fun. Call Bruno
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E48

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TALL LEAN ITAL VRS/TOP
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MORE D**K THAN MOST
GET IN A LIFETIME
E48



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BROWN HAIR 9 IN 29 IN WAIST
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E51

Sexy Middle Eastern
PLAYFUL NO ATTITUDE
5ft8 145 Cut Muscle Hairy
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SEXY VERSATILE GUY
Friendly Latino, smooth body, tan slim, cleancut, gym toned, 26yrs 5'7", 130#, 7x6 Erik 235-6090
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Thomasescort.com 415-336-8135
UNCONDITIONAL LOVE
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Out 415-640-4045
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Light to heavy sensual SM
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HUNG BOTTOM
PLOW MY FURRY HOLE!
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Scat • Verbal Abuse, 5'8 Hairy 165
Muscle-Dad 9" Uncut 415-577-0406
E48

5'8" 150# toned, tats, red fur
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That *has* to be more than you can say.

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- Voice Mail

24 Hours
$2.00
976-7500

Free
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OPERA & SYMPHONY LOVER?

GWM, high-tech professional, 53, HIV-, brn hair & eyes, 5'11" av build ISO fellow music afficionado in his 30's or 40's, HIV-, attractive, upbeat attitude & playful wit! Polite with good social skills, OUT and comfortable, compassionate & easy going. Our client is an Opera fan, loves the symphony, singing and Sunday New York Times. San Jose or San Francisco Bay Areas preferred. Visit www.VXOPartners.com client ad 2738. (FREE). E48

HAPPY BIRTHDAY MARLENA!! NOT EVERY ONE CAN BE 60 MORE THAN ONCE!!

E47

BELATED, BUT NO LESS SINCERE HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO
TONY KOESTER
Heard you had a rollicking good time at Daddy's last Sunday, Nov. 7th. E47



STRICTLY SEX!!

Hook-up Discreetly. 18+.
Call 415-247-2000 or
510-814-6699. Ad #5102. E18

Good Head in Sonoma County.
Call Days 707-823-3895 E49

Fisting Top looking for some A list pussy. 752-0971. E52-04

Bare Assed Spanking
SF's Best Spanker
Daddy Howard. 929-1185 E52

* Spanking Over Daddy's Knee *
Experienced, Safe, Role-play/Real
415-864-2766 Beginners welcome E48

BAR TALK

1.900.226.7036 Only $1.99 per minute to respond to ads!

Don't want to use the #900 line? Use BLOCK OF TIME™ You can purchase time on our system by calling 1-800-321-6845 and requesting a 10, 20, 30, or 60 minute Block of Time™ with discounts of up to 20%. The cost is $1.99 per minute and you may use your Visa, MasterCard, Discover, or American Express card. You will be able to respond, browse, and retrieve messages by using your Block of Time™ account from any touch-tone phone! *Available only on touch-tone telephones. You must be at least 18 years old to call.*

PARTING GLANCES

Ruddy Jonathan with Nose Ring
Powell Street 10/14, we saw each other once again. Thought you disappeared. Have had a crush on you for ages. Wanna hang out sometime? Would like to know more than just your name Lar. ☎ 71420

Tues 11-9@ 18th & Castro Busstop
8:20 pm you asked how long I was waiting, we had lots of "Flirty" smiles. Regret not giving you my phone number before you caught the 24. You're handsome with a great smile. ☎ 71434

RPCV Western Samoa
Found your Fale at "Out of the Closet" on Church. Lets Talk. ☎ 71438

The Sexiest Guy In Town
Even the sexiest guy in town is not worth risking your life over. Always play safe. Wear a condom and never exchange bodily fluids. ☎ SAFE

Safe sex is hot sex! ☎ SAFE

LESBIAN

East Bay Artist/Editor
Quiet, creative, 42, seeks compatible Female, 40+, for dating, potential relationship. I enjoy walks, historical sites, shorelines, swimming, organized home, positive outlook, small gathering with friends. ☎ 71437

SEEKING RELATIONSHIP

Single An Available To Love
Handsome Latino, Brazilian. 142 lbs, 5'7", 38yo. Endowed to make you happy. Clean, financially stable. Fun. Looking for guys under 40. WGM only. ☎ 71439

48 GWM Sacramento Seek ??
5'11", 200lbs. Looking for??. Friend or more. I'm sincere, honest, caring and friendly. Lots of different interest. Like white and latin guys 26 to 42. Take a chance! ☎ 71429

Nothing Ventured Nothing Gained
55yo GWM 5'9" 150lbs. Versatile, good looking. Down to earth. Healthy long term survivor. Looking for same! Long hair, NS, Aroma ok, lite alcohol. ☎ 71430

Handsome GBM
Health professional, 44, 5'11", average build, seeking social companion for movies, dining, theater, travel and romance. ISO affectionate man in his 30's or 40's who has compassion for others, any race, non smoker, shares love of dogs. ☎ 71428

Single White Male 25, 5"11",
180lbs, blue eyes, brown hair with a nice muscular body. Looking for love or companionship with fun loving person. Talk to you soon. ☎ 71432

Nordic Retired Farmer Physicist
GWM ISO companion to share experiences of world wide travel, symphony, theater, ballet, art museums and collecting, gardening, enviromental politics, and nude life on the farm in San Mateo County. ☎ 71426

GWM 5'9" 130 Good Shape 22yrs
Clean. Looking for GAM mid 50's good shape looking for affectionate relationship. No smoking. I'm responding to the Asian 71370. ☎ 71421

Tall Handsome Animal Lover
Thoughtful, passionate, playful, easygoing, healthy, affectionate, romantic homebody. Seeks similar 35-60 home owner for monogamous. Peaceful LTR 6'2", 190lbs, moustache/goatee, shaved head, sexy, honest. Love nature, hiking, plants, foreplay. ☎ 71431

Seek Slim Asian Freind or LTR
Caring WM, young looking for 50. 6'1",176lbs, blue eyes, HIV-, proessional seeks rather slim Asian 18-38. Plus if foreign born. Enjoy cuddling, movies, massage, body contact, exercise, dining. ☎ 71422

SEEKING ADVENTURE

Black Mature 45 Visiting SF
Versatile oral bottom. Sucks, rim, clean ass, dominated, submissive. Versatile in all. One on One, group, three wall. All races, men of color a +. ☎ 71440

Play safe. Wear a condom. ☎ SAFE

Hispanic ISO GWM
Me: 5'6", 54, 143lbs. Enjoy running, gym, travel, politics, pro sports, films, theater, classic rock. You: 35-70 into oral, cuddling, kissing, tits, pits, barefeet and others. ☎ 71436

Deep Long Full Body Nude
wanted by attractive in shape Asian male from experienced masseurs. I enjoy head to toe massage on every inch of my nude body. I am available anytime. ☎ 71433

Hungry + Bottom Needs Hot + Top
WM, 40 , Pos., hot, hungry bottom ISO hot top who knows how to use his love toy and then some. If this fits, then let's be buddies and play safe. Men Only! ☎ 71427

Free Beer and Blowjob
For Straight Inshape Guys only! Sit back, enjoy porn, beer, bj by inshape gay guy. Also my butt available for hot guys. ☎ 71423

Latino Man Bubble Butt
GLM, 38, 153lbs, 5'7", muscular body, HIV+, healthy, nice dick. Versatile, smooth, NO D/S. You GWM, 30-40yo, HIV+, Healthy, versatile, small/medium dick, smooth, 5'5"-5'10", not over 155lbs. No drugs, smoking. SF only. Call now! ☎ 71424

Black Top, Huge Cock
Seeks Bubble butt Latino bottom. Be very cute and femie. I love to fuck a long time. Call me Papi. ☎ 71425

FETISHES

Foreskin Fetish
GBM, young 53 yo, great shape, cuddly & physically sensational. I "not only worship but" also encourage older mature men with foreskin. Welcome! ☎ 71426

Spank Your Butt
Hot, masculine top, 38, 5'11" 175#, seeks well built bottom with nice ass for over the knee spanking, role playing and plowing your ass. ☎ 71435



www.stevenunderhill.com

BAR TALK

PERSONALS ARE FREE!

You must use this form to submit ads. Deadline for ads is **TUESDAY** at **5 PM,** for the following week's issue. New ads run for three consecutive weeks. You will be notified by mail with information on how to leave and retrieve messages from your mailbox ad. Print clearly. No ads will be accepted without valid address, telephone number and legible text. The *Bay Area Reporter* reserves the right to edit ads. **One ad per customer per week.**

Name _____ Daytime Telephone _____

Address _____ Evening Telephone _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

CATEGORY

Parting Glances ☐
Seeking Relationship ☐
Seeking Adventure ☐
Lesbian ☐
Fetishes ☐
Couples ☐
Others ☐

Headline, 30 characters maximum

Write the rest of your ad here, **30 words maximum**

MAIL FORM TO: BAR Talk, Bay Area Reporter, 395 Ninth Street, San Francisco, CA 94103

PEOPLE

HAPPILY EVER AFTER WANTED

Physically active GWM, HIV-, age 43, S&P hair, brown eyes with lean build and sense of humor who enjoys romantic evenings, fine dining, the beach, Napa Valley, and the good life. Are you a goal-oriented "nice guy" age 38-48, with a spontaneity gene, who likes his mother and is kind to four- legged animals? Let's nurture a fantastic friendship that grows into a loving relationship worth getting sentimental about. Respond to Ad Code 2746 (Never a charge to Respond-FREE).
www.VXOPartners.com
E46

CONGRATULATIONS TO:
JEFF HETTINGER
MR. NORTH COAST LEATHER
and good luck at IML next May!
E47b

DOMINANT SEEKS SUBMISSIVE

Attractive GWM, HIV-, age 59, 5'10" easy-going, educated and genuine, interested in the arts, theater, travel and the outdoors seeks HIV-, age 30-40s, politically liberal, self-accepting, out, and happy to be gay. Dominant in the bedroom, he seeks a quiet, thoughtful guy who leans toward the submissive side in a relationship. Adventurous Caucasian or Latino bottoms preferred. Visit us online today and see Ad Code 2750. (FREE to respond) Gaymillionairesclub.com
E50

GWM 48 Healthy HIV+ seeking GM 35-50 Top HIV+ dark hair and features for sex,fun, 626-5796.
E49

BEYOND LEATHERDOME

the second time around. Club Rendeavous on Polk, Sat. NOV. 20th Starring Mark Paladini. Tiger Lily and "Berlin". To benefit Stop AIDS Project.
E47

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE
GOLDEN GATE GUARDS
Gala 18th anniversary party, Sat. Nov 20 @ Ellard Hall (110 Diamond St), 7PM to 9:30. Admission by wearing your club overlay or invite in hand. Best wishes for future success!
E47

TOBIN BRITTON

expounds on Knife Play at the Exiles monthly gathering, Fri., Nov. 19 at the Women's Building. Doors open 7:30PM, Program at 8-10PM.
E47



XXX WEB





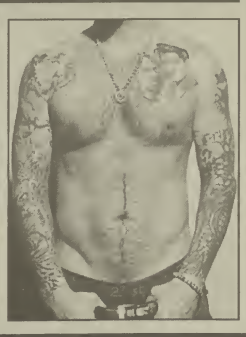


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E51



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MODEL NEEDED

Online EZine needs models for bondage videos. $500 for 4 hour shoot. Be young/gl/musc. 415-487-1296.
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Seeks hot horny guys 4 All-Male Fetish Videos! 415-436-9840.
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FACTORY VIDEO

You - Hot,18-35, in shape. Like sex & showing off+Making $$. Call now for an interview. Also looking for bears. Call us at 415-777-9070. www.factoryvideos.com
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E18

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For Adult Videos. 18+, Good $$ Email gary@sxvideo.com or go to www.sxvideo.com/models.htm
E47


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